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adopted the custom of having a "Sunday school anniversary" or "children's Sunday;" and part of the time on such a Sunday could no doubt be profitably employed in bringing, before the congregation a report of the Sunday school, its progress and its needs. Some such means as these, adapted to the special circumstances of different congregations, would do something, perhaps much, not only to encourage the members of the school, but also to arouse and sustain the interest of the congregation in its welfare and work. In many cases something more might be done to impress upon congregations the Church's responsibility as a body for the feeding of its lambs. Apart altogether from the duty of parents to children, the Church, as a Christian society, has a corporate duty towards its younger members. Some professing Christians seem to think that because they have no families they have no responsibility in such matters; yet as members of the Church of Christ, they most undoubtedly have. If more were done in sermons to impress upon our congregations this truth of the Church's corporate duty to children, it would doubtless bring many to see and confess a responsibility which they do not seem at present to recognize; and it would also do much to secure for the Sunday school its rightful place in the Church's system.

OUR ENGLISH LETTER.

(From our Correspondent.)

At last some of the many schemes suggested to commemorate the long reign of the Queen-Empress have crystallized down to two principal ones. The Prince of Wales has led off with a scheme for providing a better income for the hospitals of London. The plan is going ahead splendidly. Then the Queen herself has consented to let the Clergy Sustentation Fund be called the Queen Victoria Clergy Fund. The sick poor and poor clergy are thus rightly to receive the most attention. Already we have Queen Ann's Bounty, a valuable boon to the clergy, and now we shall have a Queen Victoria Fund, another capital help to the clergy of the land. We are still in the throes of the education debate, but the trend of opinion is in the direction of the bill being passed in pretty well the same form as it was introduced. By the three modes of relief Exeter diocese will gain a grant of £12,000. As subscriptions are to be kept up there will be a nice sum to improve the school building and to increase the teachers' salaries. Both are wanted to keep the Church schools abreast of the board schools. The clergy and lay readers who are far from libraries will like to hear of the following two good volumes of sermons. The late Professor Hart left behind him a volume of "Village Sermons," in which he put his best thoughts and expressed those thoughts in beautifully simple language. The simplicity does not hide shallowness and the villagers are not regarded as simpletons. Another book is by the new Bishop of London. It is called "The Heritage of the Spirit." Religion and politics, religion and common sense sufficiently indicate the drift of the thought. The book has a manly tone and is suffused with Christian truth and Christian charity. Herbert Spencer has come in for much praise for completing his truly herculean work, "The Synthetic Philosophy." As the champion of individualism as opposed to socialism, Mr. Spencer has been roughly treated in certain quarters. But he himself does not despair of the future. His conclusions may be summarized in such words as these: Strong men will arise even as of old—"people before whom the socialistic organization will go down like a house of cards." Relative, though not absolute, optimism is a reasonable mood. Higher types of society will be produced. Impediments to progress will be removed. The "re-barbarization," constantly undoing the work of

civilization, may be stifled; and to-day, looking forward to a remote future, his forecast is favourable. Long studies, showing among other things the need for certain qualifications above indicated, but also revealing facts like that just named, have not caused me to recede from the belief expressed nearly fifty years ago that—"The ultimate man will be one whose private requirements coincide with public ones. He will be that manner of man who, in spontaneously fulfilling his own nature, incidentally performs the functions of a social unit; and yet is only enabled so to fulfil his own nature by all others doing the like."

REVIEWS.

THE PROPHECIES OF CHRIST.—THE PROPHECIES OF JESUS CHRIST RELATING TO HIS DEATH, RESURRECTION, AND SECOND COMING; AND THEIR FULFILMENT.—By D. Paul Schwarzkopf. Price 5s. Edinburgh: T. & T. Clark. Toronto: Revell Co. 1897.

We should be sorry to question the sincerity of the author of this volume, or the learning and ability which he displays: nor should we advise all of our readers to abstain from its perusal. It is a volume of great interest. But we differ from its contents almost from the beginning to the end. Whether we consider the view taken of our Lord's foreknowledge and predictions or that of the fulfilment of them, we must confess that Dr. Schwarzkopf's utterances are not merely distasteful, but to our mind utterly irreconcilable with the Catholic faith. Thus, speaking of our Lord's prediction of the diffusion of the Gospel, the author asks: "Does it mean that Jesus may have supposed that within a generation the Gospel would have been preached by Paul throughout the whole of Europe? He could not have had any presentiment of Paul's mission to the Gentiles, for He was no soothsayer. The Italics are ours; and we like very ill the whole sentiment of the passages. And the expositions of the fulfilment are hardly more satisfactory. Thus, in speaking of the Resurrection of Christ, he appears to think it of no importance whether His body was raised, or whether it was stolen from the tomb! This is quite a new idea of apologetic literature.

MY FIRST DUTY. TWELVE SHORT INSTRUCTIONS ON MY DUTY TOWARDS GOD.—By Juliet C. Smith, Author of "Echoes from the Psalter," with an Introduction by George H. McGrew, D.D. Pp. 95. 60s. New York: Thomas Whitaker. Toronto: Rowell & Hutchison.

These short readings are very suggestive in thought, and chaste in diction, so that there is both pleasure and profit in using them. Their earnest simplicity is one of their greatest charms, and for an upper class in Sunday school their study, closing with the Collect set down with each, would give a vivid application of one of the least fruitful answers in the catechism. It has quite a dainty appearance and is beautifully prepared for the public.

LENT PAST AND PRESENT.—By Rev. H. Lillenthal, M.A. (pp. 161, 25c.) and HANDBOOK OF THE BIBLE, FACTS AND MEMORIES, by Rev. William Turner (pp. 235, 50c.)

Are added to the Whittaker Library, and thus are placed within the reach of all. We reiterate our commendation of both volumes, and are glad to see them in this. Thomas Whittaker, of New York, should be well supported in his endeavour to supply good historical and theological literature in a cheap form.

THE JEWS AND THEIR CLAIM IN 1897.

The Right Rev. G. F. Popham Blyth, D.D., Anglican Bishop of Jerusalem and the East, desires to place the perusal of the following statements on the conscience of his brethren, the clergy of the Anglican Communion:

It is difficult to overrate the urgency of work which concerns the Jews at the present day. It is indeed important that the Church should realize this, the most vital of Eastern questions. The return of the Jews to the land that is theirs (and which the Turks have owned) is God's land in their trust and presents such startling figures as arrest attention. Let them be stated in connection with

this bishopric: in 1841, when the bishopric was founded, they were 8,000; in 1887, when it was revived, they were 20,000; now they are about 180,000. The exact number is not known; it is not to their advantage to challenge notice, but it is probably not less, but more than this. There has been of late a check to the tide of immigration, but the flow is constant and it increases; and very soon the present prohibition against their entrance must certainly be removed. The barrier will burst before the accumulating pressure. And what are we, the mere handful that is here, that we should be able to reclaim from amongst them the "Church of the Hebrews"? But if, in the work of the Anglican Church in Palestine (at present alone permitted to take up Jewish Missions), there can be formed a congregation purely of believing Jews, may it not powerfully affect the future of their nation in that inevitable day when they shall study the claims of Christianity in their own land. At present the papers are full of the movements of the Jewish race; they have their hand upon the finances of Empires; and they have a very defined intention before them with reference to Palestine. There is no trifling with a question which we cannot ignore, and where beneficial action is more open to our own Communion than to any other—through our mercy may they also obtain mercy.

We must leave other societies at work amongst the Jews to put forward the position of the stations they occupy and their successes and needs. In confining the few words that follow to the missions which are in our own hands, we do not under-value, or ignore, what is well done by others more or less in concert with us; for instance, at Jerusalem, the line of medical work taken by the "L. J. S." enables us to give attention to other aspects of work: we now simply and briefly put forward what we can most readily offer to those whose aid and co-operation we desire—our own facts.

The work we have in hand connected with the Jews (for Jewish work we are pleading on Good Friday) is at present confined to Jerusalem and Haifa in Palestine, and Cairo in Egypt. It is thus confined only by want of means, for the bishopric includes many stations where there are large settlements of Jews, to whom there is no one to speak in behalf of their Messiah. And in each of our three stations the work is in need of considerable expansion to meet even present openings.

1. At Jerusalem we have a Home, which includes accommodation for 18 orphan girls, who are placed in our charge (with consent to their baptism) until they are 18 years of age. They are educated with a view to employment in the mission field, if suited for it. There are working parties of about 90 Jewish women (their number might be greatly increased), to whom the material help which is dispensed from the Home, and their education in plain needlework, are practical benefits. There is also a large day school for girls, numbering at present about 75, the extension of which is much needed. The staff engaged finds accommodation at the Home. A development of the evangelistic work which opens from these classes and the school waits only for the increase of means. The present success is quite sufficient to encourage very ardent hopes, and to authorize an earnest appeal for that support which is a necessity to us.

2. At Haifa there is a good hospital, where accommodation can be given to 40 patients, as soon as the means in hand suffices for the support of extra beds and of additional staff. There is a doctor and dispenser, a good dispensary, and trained nurses. There is a temporary chapel, and the mission staff includes a resident chaplain; this arrangement will be placed on a much wider footing as soon as the permanent chapel is finished. There are also schools in the centre of the population of the town which have been greatly successful. All the branches of this mission may be extended, and will be so as means allow.

3. At Cairo, in Egypt, our work is mainly educational, though the daily services of the Mission chapel attract much interest and are very helpful. Here, as in Jerusalem, the establishment of medical work, usually of such primary importance in the East, is not at present necessary to us, as such large provision is made by the C.M.S. and others. But our schools are amongst the most prominent in Cairo; they include certain branches of instruction which no other schools recognize, and they occupy to a considerable extent the place formerly filled by Miss Whateley's well-known school. The fees of the higher classes will presently enable us to open branch schools in some densely populated and poor district. A boarding school, not as yet within our means, is becoming a necessity to the work. A good building site has been lately obtained. Were we able to lay out £2,500 in buildings here we should save our present outlay of £200 a year in rent, and insure the permanency of our work. We have five times suffered from a change of landlord, when the pupils were scattered and the work had to be recommenced in a new neighbourhood.