

Mrs. Hutcheon has written a very practical little book (7), and we should be glad to know of its being widely circulated. Mr. Kingston, in his new book (8), has excelled himself. We all know his style, so fresh and vigorous, which has delighted the hearts of "The boys" for years past, and this latest venture, intended more especially for girls, is fully equal to his previous efforts, though written, of course, in a very different strain.

Young men would do well to read and take to heart the addresses just reissued by Dr. Landels (9). They are full of life and vigour; practical, homely, and searching, and thoroughly up to the times.

An exceedingly good book, though somewhat plagiaristic, is Duncan Macgregor's "Mariner Newman" (10), written very much on the lines of the Pilgrim's Progress. The author has given us some very striking thoughts, clothed with a quaintness which adds no little charm to the whole.

"Village Methodism" (11) has found a worthy chronicler in the Rev. J. Colwell. His sketches are well written, and true to life.

Mr. Longley has just issued a third edition of Whittle's Memoir of Bliss (12) which has been justly called "a charming memoir of a charming man." The cover alone of this new issue (1s. edition) ought to sell the book; it is the most effective we have seen for a long time.

Very simple yet very earnest and even pathetic, is the story of two brothers (13), which Mr. Shenton has just issued. It is exceedingly cheap, and is just the book we should like to see in every village library in the kingdom.

We have received *The Duties of Wesleyan Stewards*, by Rev. E. Workman (Wesleyan Conference Office) *Thoughts on Immortality*, by R. Brown (Stock). *The Promise is to You*. (Stock). *The Ritualistic Conspiracy*. A very trenchant pamphlet. ("Rock" Office.) *Hattie and Nancy*, and *Ragged Jim's last Song*, two simple and very interesting little books for the younger ones (Wesleyan Conference Office).

OUR NOTE BOOK.

THE Bishop of Manchester, in a letter to Mr. W. Birch, of that city, says:—"There may possibly be cases in which war may be the only remedy of some foul or crying wrong, and may be accepted as the lesser of two evils. But modern wars, which have been mostly prompted by greed, or jealousy, or fear, have rarely had this motive for their justification, or can be regarded by intelligent men as other than rude and barbarous methods of attaining an end. . . . We are certainly on the lines of our duty when we teach our congregations to pray that God would turn the hearts of 'the people that delight in war.'"

A memorial window to the late Sir Titus Salt, Bart., is to be inserted in the north transept of Lightcliffe Congregational Church. Sir Titus attended this church, and was much interested in its erection.

The exhibition illustrative of the origin and development of the art of printing, in connection with the Caxton celebration in London, was opened by Mr. Gladstone, at the South Kensington Museum, in the presence of a large concourse of visitors. At the *déjeuner* which followed, Mr. Gladstone, who presided, gave an address. Her Majesty has contributed a volume—the "Mentz Psalter," dated 1457—which is valued at £3000. In addition to the service in Westminster Abbey, a festival service, commemorating the introduction of printing, has been held in St. Paul's Cathedral.

Owing to the quantity of poor children who during the summer months frequent the Temple Gardens, and thus have the privilege of breathing a purer air than that of their own streets and courts, it has been decided to keep the gates open till nine o'clock. Many of the squares, greens, and other open spaces of the metropolis have been provided with seats.

The Midmay-park Conference was held as usual, and extended over three days. It was attended by large gatherings.

Mr. Stevenson Blackwood presided over most of the meetings. The subjects for consideration were, "The Acceptable Sacrifice," "The Transfiguration," and "The Acceptable Will of God" (Rom. xii. 1 and 2), which severally occupied the consideration of the Conference on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday.

The number of members now in the English Church Union is 16,498, against 13,877 last year.

The Church Association has opened 42 new branches since last year's annual meeting—the number of branches now being 280.

Mr. Thomas Spurgeon, son of the Rev. C. H. Spurgeon, by the advice of his medical attendant, is now on his way to South Australia, for the benefit of his health. Previous to his departure, he preached a farewell sermon in his Mission Chapel at Wandsworth. He will be absent from England about twelve months.

The Bible Christian Connexion reports an increase of 1100 members over those of last year.

The Primitive Methodist Conference has been held at Scarborough. The retiring president was the Rev. J. Dickinson. The Rev. T. Smith, governor of York College, was elected president, and the Rev. H. Phillips vice-president. The membership numbers 180,634, an increase of 3820. Next year's Conference will be held in Manchester.

The Methodist New Connexion Conference has this year been held in Leeds. The retiring president (the Rev. C. D. Ward) preached the official sermon on Sunday morning, and on Monday the Conference assembled for business. The Rev. J. Medlicraft was elected president for the ensuing year by a majority of seventeen votes over those for the Rev. G. Hallett. The Rev. W. J. Townsend was elected general secretary. The new president then gave an address. He vindicated their principles, and spoke hopefully of the day when the Old Connexion and the New, which had been divided by principle, should be reunited on principle. The increase of members for the year was 1161, but the actual number added to the church had been between 3000 and 4000.

The Irish Wesleyan Conference was held at Cork, and was presided over by the Rev. Alexander Macaulay. The subject of the union of the Primitive Wesleyan Body with the Irish Wesleyan Conference formed one of the most important questions under consideration, and progress was made towards that desirable end. This Conference will have an historical interest, from the fact of its being the first mixed Conference of Methodism in Ireland.

St. Albans Abbey is now the cathedral of a new diocese, and the ancient town will henceforward be designated the "city" of St. Albans. At the investment of Dr. Cloughton as first bishop of the see were assembled a large number of Church dignitaries, and the "city" and cathedral were crowded by visitors. It was remarked that there had not been such an assemblage within the abbey walls since 1115, in which year the church was consecrated, and the ceremony was witnessed by Henry I. and Matilda, who, with many abbots, prelates, and nobles, were entertained in the abbey for eleven days.

Dr. Lindsay Alexander has resigned his position as pastor of the Augustine Church, having accepted the Chair of Theology (newly endowed) in the Congregational Hall, Edinburgh.

The Metropolitan Hospital Sunday Fund approaches £20,000.

Mr. Spurgeon has been forbidden by his medical advisers from making any engagements beyond those relating to his own work. Speaking of his inability to keep those he has already made, he says that "the choice seems to lie between being laid aside pretty frequently with depression of spirit and pain of body, and steadily keeping on with home duties."

Her Majesty the Queen has expressed her desire to award the Albert Medals to the Welshmen who so gallantly released their fellow water-imprisoned miners.

PRAYER UNION.—The Rev. John Thomas, of 39, Warwick-lane, London, writes:—"I shall be obliged if you will kindly allow me to call the attention of your readers to the Pennel Prayer Union, of which I have the privilege to be the honorary secretary. This Union is instituted for the purpose of securing the co-operation of members of all evangelical denominations of Christians, in united prayer for the Divine blessing upon Christian work and workers, and for definitely stated subjects; also for the systematic study of the Word of God. As our first year is now drawing to a close, I shall be very pleased to hear from any of your readers at once, and will

(7) *Light Amid the Shadows*. By Mrs. Hutcheon. (Stock.)

(8) *Clara Maynard*. By W. H. G. Kingston. (Hodder and Stoughton. 3s. 6d.)

(9) *Beacons and Patterns*. By the Rev. W. Landels, D.D. (Hodder and Stoughton. 3s. 6d.)

(10) *Mariner Newman*. By Duncan Macgregor. (Hodder and Stoughton. 3s. 6d.)

(11) *Sketches of Village Methodism*. By the Rev. J. Colwell. (Stock.)

(12) *Memoir of P. P. Bliss*. By Major Whittle. Original edition. (Longley. 1s. and 2s. 6d.)

(13) *Tom Latimer, the Prodigal*. By Joseph Shenton. (Hodder and Stoughton. 1s. 6d.)