

Book Notices.

A Knotty Point. And other stories. By WM. FORSTER. London: Wesleyan Sunday-school Union. Toronto: Wm. Briggs.

This is another handsome square octavo of short sketches by Mr. Forster. One of them will have special interest to Canadian readers as giving an account of Dr. Bowman Stevenson's Children's Home, whereby the city arabs of London are transferred from the Arabia petra of London's stony streets to the Arabia felix of happy Canadian homes.

A Standard Hymnal. A New Hymnal for general use. Compiled and arranged by C. C. CONVERSE. 12mo, cloth, 112 pp., 35 cents. New York, London and Toronto: Funk & Wagnalls Company.

No one could be better fitted to prepare a hymnal that would meet the devotional needs of the people in all services of the Church, Sunday-school and family circle, than is the well-known composer, C. C. Converse, of whose hymn "What a Friend we Have in Jesus," fifty million copies have been printed. "Standard Hymnal" contains 150 of the choicest hymns selected from a whole library of psalmody. Its tunes are among the choicest written by the world's great composers.

Talks to the King's Children. Second series of "Five Minute Object Sermons." By SYLVANUS STALL, D.D. Cloth, 12mo, 256 pp., \$1.00. New York, London and Toronto: Funk & Wagnalls Company.

This book belongs to a class of which there are but few in any language. The author has done for children what Schriver in Germany, and Dean Stanley in England, have done for grown people. There are many religious books for children, but these Sermonettes are unique. With some object of every-day life presented to the eye, the author after the manner of the parables, presents the important truths of the Gospel to the easy comprehension of both old and young. The large sale of the first series of "Five Minute Object Sermons to Children" proves the author's fitness for this work. Every page is animate with thoughts that both captivate and edify. Some of the sermons are little classics. The book is a model for children's sermons, and it is not surprising that the first series has been welcomed by mothers in the nursery, teachers in the school-room and missionaries in foreign lands; has afforded the best of instruction to the young, and has been appreciatively used by grown people for devotional reading and welcomed particularly by pastors in preparing to preach to children. It will be especially helpful and suggestive to primary class Sunday-school teachers.

Lamps and Pitchers and Other Addresses to Children. By GEORGE MILLIGAN, B.D. Edinburgh: Oliphant, Anderson & Ferrier. Toronto: William Briggs. Price 50 cents.

To address children so as to catch and keep their attention, and to interest and instruct the mind, is a very difficult task. Mr. Milligan seems to have a genius for this. His previous volume of "Golden Nails" has reached its sixth thousand, and other volumes the fourth thousand. They are models of simple, direct teaching, and may be well studied by preachers and teachers among us.

Chrissie's Faults; or, Fettered by Custom. By JEANIE FERRY. London: Wesleyan Sunday-school Union. Toronto: William Briggs.

This is another story illustrating the evils of intemperance and its frightful consequences. A young wife, fettered by the customs of the times, refused to sign the temperance pledge, yields to the fatal fascinations of the drink habit, loses her babe through the drunkenness of a nurse, and only through late repentance wins pardon and peace. Her experience is beautifully expressed in the following lines:

"The mistakes of my life have been many,
The sins of my heart have been more,
And I scarce can see for weeping,
But I'll knock at the open door.

"I am lowest of them that love Him,
I am weakest to those who pray;
But I come as He has bidden,
And He will not say me nay.

"I know I am weak and sinful,
It comes to me more and more;
But when the dear Saviour shall bid me
come in
I'll enter the open door.

"The mistakes of my life have been many,
And my spirit is sick with sin,
And I scarce can see for weeping,
But the Saviour will let me in.

"My mistakes His free grace will cover,
My sins He will wash away;
And the feet that shrink and falter
Shall walk through the gates of day."

LEARN TO DO WELL.—Learning to do well is like learning to swim. You wade into the water, but not far, for fear you will drown. You try to swim, but sink. You try again, and do a little better. You swallow a good deal of water. It gets into your ears and eyes and nose, but you keep on splashing, and finally can swim. So you must keep on doing well until you learn how, and it has become a habit. A habit is something which we have. That is what the word means. It often becomes something which has us.—*Christian Leader.*

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