

THE BOOK PAGE

A recent notable acquisition to the ranks of our Canadian Presbyterian ministry is Rev. George Hanson, F.D., formerly of Regent Square, London, and of Belfast, and now the minister of Erskine Church, Montreal. His book, **The Resurrection and the Life: A Study of the Resurrection and Ascension Narratives in the Gospels, and the Threefold Version in The Acts of Christ's Appearance to Saul on the Way to Damascus (The National Council of the Evangelical Free Churches London; Upper Canada Tract Society, Toronto; 372 pages, 90c.)**, was issued just before Dr. Hanson's coming to Montreal last autumn. The book arose from a study, covering a long time, of the Resurrection, which the writer declares proved "a remarkable stimulus to his faith in the Risen and Living Lord;" and his object is to "lead all whom his words may reach to a deeper and firmer sense of Christ's victory over death, and of His close comradeship for men to-day as yesterday." The first part of the volume is apologetic, and contains a vigorous and thoroughly well informed treatment of the varied and numerous objections to the fact of the Resurrection. The second and longer portion is mainly expository and devotional. Dr. Hanson possesses in a remarkable degree the preacher's gift of bringing the deep things of God home to the hearts of plain men. These chapters on the Resurrection, therefore, will prove a real aid to the faith of many. No book can be more timely than one that deals adequately with the Resurrection in just such fashion as Dr. Hanson has dealt with it, in defence, exposition, and application.

To missionaries we are indebted for the major part of our knowledge of the obscure corners of the earth, and especially for that intimate knowledge of their peoples which comes only from long and close intercourse. In **Congo Life and Folklore** (Religious Tract Society, London, 468 pages; \$1.20 net), Rev. John H. Weeks, of the Baptist Missionary Society, gives an unusually vivid and instructive picture of the daily life of the natives of the Congo. The book consists of two parts.—Part I., *The Life of the Congo as Described by a Brass Rod*; and Part II., *Thirty-Three Native Stories as Told Round the Evening Fires*. A brass rod (not quite so stout as an ordinary slate pencil) is the money of by far the larger number of the people of the Lower Congo. Such a Brass Rod hung about the neck of Bakula, a slave boy, travels far and wide, and sees all that there is to be seen of Congo life,—from, A Funeral Orgy, and A Search for a Witch, to, Native Games and Pastimes, and An Embassy to the King, Trading, Marketing and War. The Folklore stories are extremely well told, and the quaint titles are very suggestive, as, *Why the Fowls Never Shut Their Doors*, *Why the Dog and the Palm-rat Hate Each Other*, *The Leopard Boils His Mother's Teeth*, *How the Mouse Won His Wife*. The writer suggests that Sunday School superintendents and teachers and leaders of Christian Endeavor and missionary prayer meetings may find that the reading aloud of some of the chapters will awaken a deeper sympathy with mission work, and ministers and teachers will discover in the Folklore Tales "new nails upon which to hang old truths."

"The poets of the nineteenth century did what they did, to keep an open door for God." This sentence, coming on the last page but two of John A. Hutton's **The Winds of God** (Hodder and Stoughton, London; Upper Canada Tract Society, Toronto; 104 pages; 75c. net), serves as a key to his five charming lectures on "The Interchange of Thought with Faith During the Nineteenth Century." The writer traces some of the great movements of the last century—notably the evolutionary theory, and the unrest in the thirties, when "even sober-minded people expected a revolution in England which might be as bloody as that in France." Each of these movements threatened some aspect of the Christian faith, but the faith lived on in the dreams and visions, and in the clear-cut, incisive lines, of such as Tennyson and Browning. They brought those back to God who were tempted to turn away from Him, and with a clearer, truer knowledge of, and faith in, God. Faith was, as it always is and will be, the gainer, by the increase of knowledge and of the mental unrest which seeks for truer and larger things. Very charmingly, and with great wealth of literary allusion and a true spiritual touch, the writer works out this thought. Faith, far from being the sufferer by science or by larger ideas of liberty, will lift the race nearer and nearer God. "The Winds of God" gently move unseen amidst the tempests and cross currents of earth.

Talks With Children About Themselves is the enticing title; and Amy B. Barnard has made of it a wonderfully interesting, and likely to be useful, book (Cassell & Company, Toronto, 228 pages, \$1.00). Beginning with the body, the writer tells the child about himself, with such chapter headings as: *Why We Eat*, *Air Sponges (the lungs)*, *A Human Camera (the eye)*, *A Strange Telegraphic System (the nerves)*, *A Most Precious Storehouse (the brain)*. There are chapters upon Exercise, Rest, Sleep, Games, Learning and Remembering, *What Shall I Read?* *Master or Slave?* *Ill Temper and Good Temper*, *Sneaks and Goody-Goodies*, *Growing a Will*, *Making Friends*, *Home Folk*, *Animal Friends*, and even upon such uninviting—to the normal, care-free child—topics as *Days in Bed*, *School Times*, and *Hard Lessons*. The talk is simple and straight, such as an ordinarily intelligent child will understand and relish, and there is sufficient of imagination and illustration to float it off well. Altogether, a good book to have about the house for the child to browse in.

Cassell & Company also send three volumes of **Essays on Duty and Discipline**, each containing ten Essays (30c. per volume). They are written by notable men and women, the object of the series being "to counteract the lack of adequate moral training and discipline, the effects of which are so apparent in these days amongst many British children, in rich as well as in poor homes." "Present juvenile in discipline is held", in the preface to the Essays, to be "a serious social danger, and a peril to the permanent security of the Empire." The essays take up the subjects from all sides and are well worth reading and study by parents, guardians and teachers of the young.