

Current Literature.

Books and Periodicals.

MOSES, THE SERVANT OF GOD. By F. B. Meyer, B.A. Toronto: Fleming H. Revell Co.

Anything from the pen of Rev. F. B. Meyer would be of interest. His services to the kingdom have been so manifold and signal both in his varied and active ministry and by his numerous writings, that when he draws on his rich experience for the purpose of making a book, the result is largely looked for.

His ministerial life began in 1869 when he became assistant to Rev. C. M. Burrell, of Pembroke chapel, Liverpool, a man whose personal friendship was of the greatest possible advantage to Mr. Meyer. In 1872 he was the widely popular and successful minister of the Gothic Baptist Chapel, York, and in 1874 he succeeded Rev. Dr. Hayercroft in the pastorate of Victoria Road church, Leicester. Here he was brought in contact with the sad condition of the industrial class, and so much did the misery and godlessness prevalent among them press upon him that he gave up his regular pastorate in 1876, and set on foot a movement which rendered his name famous in the ranks of evangelists. He erected the building known as Melbourne Hall "whose dome," in the words of a biographer, is seen from afar as the town of Leicester is approached. Its network of institutions, and array of earnest workers, and thronging congregations, have all grown up about this man of God in a few short years. There were 2,300 scholars in his Sunday Schools here and over 200 teachers assisted him in the work of the schools. Temperance work, Prison Gate Missions, and Revival Meetings, were incessantly engaged in at Melbourne Hall where Mr. Meyer's work came to an end in 1888 on his accepting the pastorate of Regent's Park Chapel, London, the congregation presided over previously by Rev. David Davies and Dr. Laudds. In London some of the features of Melbourne Hall soon began to appear, the first being the establishment of a model common lodging house with six by four beds, and a club and gymnasium for working lads. His work has been graciously blessed to an uncommon degree and there are thousands in England who own to his means their change of heart.

He has written much of a practical and popular character. The names of a few of his books indicate the themes: Abraham; or the Obedience of Faith; Israel: a Prince with God; Joseph: Beloved Hated Exalted; Elijah: and the Secret of His Power; Exposition of John i: 12; of the First Epistle of St. Peter; the Psalms; the present tense of the Blessed Life; the future tenses of the Blessed Life; the Shepherd Psalm. Christian Living; Moses, the servant of God.

Moses is the greatest character in old Testament history. Mr. Meyer tells his wonderful story in plain, every-day language with charming and absorbing effect. His little book is not a mere record of the work performed by Moses in the deliverance and leading of Israel; it is rather a series of a character sketches as reflected in that work. The author's great object is to magnify the power of faith. He tries to show that Moses was a man like other men; with great qualities that needed to be developed and improved; with flaws that veined the pure marble of his character; with deficiencies that had rendered him powerless but for the all sufficient grace that he learned to appropriate; and that he wrought his life work by the simplicity of his faith, by communion with God, and by becoming a channel through which the Divine purpose was achieved. The message of the book accords with this purpose. A man of faith, the author shows the reader how great things can be done by faith. He finds in Moses an ideal, a man who subjected himself fully to God's service by a simple and strong belief that God would act through him. What was done through Moses' agency can be done by the agency of men now-a-days, if men only had the same faith. "It will be our contention," he says throughout, our study of the remarkable life before us, that though Moses may have had commanding features of mind and body, and have been versed in all the learning of his time; yet the marvelous outcome of his life-work was not due to any of these qualities, but of the faith which knit his soul to G. d." To this position the author conforms. He does not enter into the question of authorship or authenticity of books, nor does he raise difficulties which would strew the field of critical scholarship; he accepts the record, deduces its teaching to the great glory of the power of faith. The general reader will value the book as one affording suggestive thoughts in simple guise. The more thoughtful will not differ from the conclusions arrived at and will acknowledge the teaching power of the book.

BIHR AND GARENGANER. A record of four years' work and journeying in Africa. By F. S. Arnot. Toronto, Fleming H. Revell Co.

African missions, African exploration and African conquest have a charm peculiarly their own. The Dark Continent, the scene of Livingstone's loving labour, of Stanley's Herculean efforts, of McKay's martyr devotion, of the ambition of Cameron, Burton, Emin, and Macdonald, never fails to attract the interest of all classes, and books are devoured with relish, that tell us of its secrets. The latest author to claim attention to this question is Frederick Stanley Arnot, who has just published a booklet under the above caption. It will repay perusal. Although the area dealt with by the author is comparatively small along side the field of other African writers, it is important and from the missionary's standpoint very interesting. Well-executed maps indicate the geographical position of the territory described by Mr. Arnot. The story told in the book is not overburdened with details and makes racy reading very suitable for this warm weather. Troubles

with native tribes and with the Portuguese, the slave trade, the habits and mode of living of the aborigines are touched upon and new material is gathered in concise space within the boards of a volume of about 160 pages. The author, who is recruiting health, away from the field of labour where his heart is, is not unknown personally to many of our readers.

THE addresses delivered in Convocation Hall, Queen's University, Kingston, Ont., in 1893, have been collected and issued in a pamphlet of one hundred pages. The addresses cover a variety of subjects, and they are all able. They open with a thoughtful paper on "Study and Spiritual Life," by Rev. Principal Caven, whose pithy, clear-cut sentences will be read with profit by a larger constituency than the students; and then follows the address of Prof. Campbell, which has come upon the Church as a bombshell, and which is now under the jurisdiction of the Montreal Presbytery. Readers of THE REVIEW are aware of its contents, and need not enlarge on them, nor at this hour touch on their merits. That will be done in another column as occasion demands it. Rev. A. Gandier, B.D., John Watson, LL.D., Rev. Herbert Symonds, M.A., Prof. Ross, Prof. Short, Rev. G. J. Low, Principal Grant and Rev. Dr. Williamson are the other lecturers who are in evidence in this interesting collection. The publishing committee has done a real service to the country by placing these able and timely addresses before the people at large.

THE CRITICAL REVIEW for the current month is irresistibly attractive. It is crowded with short articles on current literature, the best books, described and criticized by the best of present-day writers. The editor is Professor S. D. F. Salmon, and his staff of contributors is representative of the thought and scholarship of British theology and philosophy. It is a bright budget, brimful of good things.

THE PRESBYTERIAN QUARTERLY is just to hand. On the title-page is a dazzling array of D.D.'s. If degrees indicate high learning, the eight articles ought to be substantial reading for earnest divines. Girardeau, Starbuck, Waddell, Hinzuga, Vaughan, Nelson, Woodworth, Lacy, Warfield and Price are names to conjure with, and the Quarterly has the full benefit of their high attainments. The papers, with one or two exceptions, are highly technical, and are fresh, weighty contributions to many first rank subjects. Presbyterian thought in the United States is fairly represented on the pages.

THE KNOX COLLEGE MONTHLY for July contains one or two timely articles and a number of contributions of general interest. Rev. Dr. Caven's sermon, delivered before the General Assembly at Brantford, is reproduced. It deals with a question much thought about in the church at the present time, the inspiration of the Scriptures. Of course the learned Principal is orthodox, but he is also, as a matter of course, free and fresh in his positions. Dr. Caven has followed modern thought and the higher criticism with a keen, intelligent mind. His bent is liberal ward, and his sympathies are generally for the modern, but not a jot or tittle does he concede in the essentials. Another article in the Monthly on the Documents of the Pentateuch by Rev. Henry Gracey, of Gananoque, is a useful study of an important subject. Mr. Gracey makes a few keen cuts in his criticism and the information he places before the reader is reliable and will prove useful. "The Honanese Rainmakers" furnishes Rev. D. MacGillivray with an interesting subject. The modes of praying for rain are curious, but they show the simple superstitious beliefs of the natives of Honan. The "Conference" is composed of papers read at the Alumni meeting of Knox College and refer to the training of students for the ministry.

THE MISSIONARY REVIEW for August is to hand early. To those interested in Missions, no better publication can be recommended. The wide field of the world is covered, and facts and suggestions are gathered together from the hard-won experience of labourers in the vineyard from all quarters. Leading missionaries contribute to its pages and the news columns are well supplied with reports of current events.

THE July number of the Manitoban (World's Fair souvenir number), Winnipeg's popular illustrated magazine has reached us and is a genuine surprise. It comprises 118 pages fully illustrated, enveloped in a new and handsome cover. The articles which are contributed by Manitoba and Northwest writers are exceedingly interesting. "Life in Manitoba," by D. W. McKerchar, M.A., takes us into the homes and hearts of the people, and not only tells us of the social and political life as it is, but discusses the country and the grand possibilities for the future. The Rev. Hugh Pedley contributes an excellent article on "Among the Churches," in which the growth of the church is traced from the first Northwest missionary up to the present time. J. J. Gunn relates an incident of the early days of Red River settlement entitled "Gaspard LeDuc," which will prove of interest to early settlers and officers of the different trading companies who still survive. Other articles of interest are Winnipeg, Past and Present, sketches of Brandon, Winnipeg Fire Brigade, Police Force, Winnipeg and Brandon Boards of Trade, portraits and sketches of His Honor Lieut. Governor Schultz, Hon. T. M. Daly, Minister of the Interior, Hon. Thos. Greenway, Premier, Minister of Agriculture. There is also a full page engraving of the members of the Manitoba Legislature; Bird's eye and street views of Winnipeg; old Fort Garry as taken in 1859; Victoria, British Columbia; a full page engraving of the Winnipeg City Council, Police Force, Fire Brigade, Manitoba Experimental Farm, views, etc.