

The Book Shelf.

Twelve Pioneer Missionaries. By George Smith, LL.D. with portraits. Published by The Nelson & Sons, London, Edinburgh, and New York.

No form of missionary reading is more stimulating than the biographies of the great-hearted men who have pioneered the way into heathen lands that they might carry the light of Christianity. This book contains fourteen chapters, each devoted to the life story of some missionary—Carey, Duff, Keith-Falconer, etc., are among the more familiar names, and there are others not so widely known whose record is on high. Missionary libraries should include this book. It will furnish material for more than one interesting missionary meeting.

Jesus the Carpenter of Nazareth. By Robert Bird. Published by Thomas Nelson & Sons, London, Edinburgh, and New York.

The story of Jesus is told in this book in a simple and interesting way, easily within the comprehension of children. It is written in short realistic chapters, endeavoring to avoid theology and sectarianism. It is a splendid book for mothers to read with their children, and its use will solve the problem of how to spend Sunday afternoons and evenings profitably. It is prepared in a very attractive form.

The Making of Europe. A simple account of the formation of the principal countries and States of modern Europe, by "Nemo." Published by Thomas Nelson & Sons, London, Edinburgh, and New York.

It is simply amazing how much information, geographical and historical, this volume contains concerning the countries of Europe. It gives an account of the population, development, civilization and history of Russia, Turkey, Greece, Germany, France, Spain, Portugal, Holland, England and other countries of Europe. Where so much ground is covered the chapters are necessarily condensed, but the information is accurate and valuable.

Arnold's Practical Sabbath School Commentary on the International Lessons for 1909. By Mrs. T. B. Arnold. Published by the Fleming H. Revell Co. of New York, Chicago, and Toronto. Price 25 cents.

There is no excuse for any Sunday School teacher being without a Lesson Commentary when such an admirable one can be procured for so small an amount. This book is just what its name implies, practical and helpful. The applications of the lessons are particularly good. The "Hints for Primary Teachers" are a feature of the volume that will be appreciated by those who work in that department.

The First of the Lessons. A concise exposition of the first of the International Lessons for the year 1909. By Dr. E. A. Torrey. Published by the Revell Co. Price 25 cents.

This little book is a somewhat unique lesson help. It is a leather bound volume, small enough to slip into the vest pocket, containing three pages of exposition and suggestion on each lesson. The beauty of it is, that it can be conveniently carried, and utilized at any time to improve spare moments on the cars or elsewhere. For busy teachers it is an excellent idea.

The Canadian Christian Endeavor Handbook for 1909. Published by C. J. Atkinson, Toronto, Price, 10c.

This little book contains the topics for 1909 with practical and suggestive notes, together with valuable Christian Endeavor information and statistics. Its pages are adorned with pictures of prominent C. E. workers.

Sacred Songs No. 2. By Ira D. Sankey, James McGranahan, and Geo. C. Stebbins. Published by The Copp, Clark Co., Toronto.

A collection of sacred songs for Gospel meetings, Sunday Schools, prayer meetings, etc. Most of the hymns are new, although

there are a number of the old standards. They cover a large variety of subjects, the topical index being very valuable. The names of the compilers are a sufficient guarantee of the excellence of the music.

Heart Belie. A collection of poems by Llewellyn A. Morrison. Price, 75c.

Mr. Morrison's writings are well known to readers of *The Guardian and Outlook*, as he has been a frequent contributor to their pages during recent years. Many have been comforted and inspired by his poems so full of the devotional spirit.

This volume covers a broad range of material subjects. There are a large number of poems and hymns founded on Scriptural passages and touching many phases of human experience, conflict, triumph and rest; there are national, descriptive and sentimental poems and songs; battle-calls for patriotism and prohibition; pleasant home-life touches, recitations, kindergarten greetings, baby love-songs, and tender hymns for the children.

The Bible Under Higher Criticism. A review of current evolution theories about the Old Testament. By Rev. E. H. Dewart, D.D. Toronto: Wm. Briggs, Price, \$1.00.

Those who desire to know what is meant by the "Higher Criticism" of the Bible will do well to read this book. Many of the conclusions of the higher critics the author absolutely refuses to accept, believing that their theories about the Old Testament tend to weaken and undermine faith in the Divine authority of the Scriptures. The book is written with Dr. Dewart's well known ability, and will abundantly repay the most careful study.

Strength and Beauty. By J. R. Miller, D.D. Published by Thomas Y. Crowell & Co., New York.

The young people who have taken up the Epworth Lesson Reading Course need no introduction to Dr. Miller, as they were greatly delighted and profited last year by his valuable work on Week-Day Religion. This volume is very similar, consisting of chapters on the religious life, in which the author seeks to interpret the spiritual meanings of the Bible in the language of common life. They bear messages of cheer and encouragement to all who are striving to do the will of the Master. We would like to see books of this class more widely circulated among our young folks. Their study cannot fail to increase spiritual life.

Sermons in Stones and in Other Things. By Amos R. Wells. Published by Doubleday & McClure Co., New York. Price \$1.00.

The author of this delightful book was for some years a teacher of geology in an American college, and has taken upon him many striking lessons regarding stones, rocks and crystals to illustrate divine truth. Apart altogether from the practical lessons derived from these objects, much valuable information is imparted. The applications, however, are particularly bright and suggestive. Not only stones, but plants, stars, electricity, telephones, etc., are used to enliven important lessons. The volume is one of the most interesting that we have read for a long time.

Helps for Ambitious Boys. By William Drostale. Published by Thos. Y. Crowell & Co., New York.

This book is somewhat after the plan of Dr. Marchant's "Architects of Fate," and is full of stimulating thoughts for boys and young men. For a young fellow who scarcely knows what to make of himself, and who is at a loss with regard to the choice of a profession, we do not know of a more appropriate book. It discusses intelligently various occupations and professions, showing their advantages and disadvantages, and pointing out the secret of success. The quotations from celebrated writers that are interspersed add much to the value of the pages.

TOPIC FOR MARCH 4TH.—Matt. 20: 1-16.

"How does God reward work done for Him?"

Do not let the thought of doing something for God in order to get something back again from God, be too prominent in your treatment of this topic. If we only work for what we expect to get for it, we become moved by selfishness. God rewards those who work for Him by making them useful. If we do all we can now for His cause we shall be able to do more after a while. So our powers will increase. We will grow by working. Work done for the good of others in the name of Christ makes both His cause and the worker stronger as well as bringing blessing to those for whom the work is done. In seeking to do all the good we can we find our highest blessing. God rewards *now* as well as by-and-by. Let us find at least a great part of our reward in this life and know some of the joy of making others happy. Remember Sidney Smith's remark too: "Make a boy happy now, and you will make a man happy twenty years from now when he thinks of it." One of the most blessed rewards any of us can have for working for God is in knowing as time goes by that we are adding to the sum total of this world's misery, and increasing the glow of Christ's love in the hearts around us. The rewards of Heaven are great; but if we only work for *them* we may be disappointed. Encourage the Juniors to do all they can for God because He asks them to, and they may well recite together the pledge emphasizing the phrase, "whatever He would like to have me do."

If you would like to know about the Missionary Stamp League, send me your name and address with a stamp for reply.

The Gospels.

III. WHAT?

MATT. Principally the DISCOURSES. (See chaps. v., vi., vii., x., xiii., xviii., xxiii., xxiv., xxv.) Contains seventeen Parables, eleven of which are not given in any other Gospel. Notice the Sermon on the Mount, Christ's Charge to the Apostles, the Parables of the Kingdom and the Prophetic Discourses.

MARK. Makes prominent the DOMAINS of Jesus. The Gospel of ACTION, so has many MIRACLES, but only four parables; has eighteen of the thirty-three recorded miracles. Gives full account of the Galilean ministry. Omits altogether the Sermon on the Mount. Mark wrote presumably at the dictation of Peter.

LUKE. The most varied and complete account of the LIFE of our Lord. Contains nineteen Parables, fourteen of which are not found elsewhere. The events given in chaps ix. 51 to xviii. 14 are not recorded anywhere else. Has the same number of miracles as parables (nineteen). Covers more time than any of the others.

JOHN. Gives what the others omit—the first year's public ministry in Judea—events of the Passover Week fully recorded also. This Gospel is full of SPIRITUAL TEACHINGS. It has only eight miracles and no parables, Christ's private conversations with the Apostles are prominent throughout.