

THE BOOK PAGE

Over the entrance of a certain playground established for the benefit of the London poor is this motto, "No adults allowed to enter unless accompanied by children." The churches are coming to realize that the training of the children is, not only one of their great duties, but is absolutely necessary to their continuance: a childless church will soon be no church. Hence a great mass of literature on how to deal with boys and girls. The Macmillan Company of Canada have sent us two new books in this field, by William A. McKeever, Professor of Philosophy, Kansas State Agricultural College, **Training the Boy** (368 pages, 35 half-tone full page plates, \$1.50 net), and **Farm Boys and Girls** (326 pages, 32 full page plates, \$1.50 net). The latter volume is one of the Rural Science Series, which takes up everything pertaining to the farm from the soil, to farm book-keeping and law and the training and breaking of horses. It is quite safe to say that there is no volume of the series quite so important as that on Farm Boys and Girls, which goes into the whole question in great detail of building up the boys and girls into happy, industrious, useful and virtuous men and women. The same minuteness of detail marks Mr. McKeever's volume on "The Training of the Boy," the leading thought of which is expressed in the words, "Train the whole boy, and not merely a part of him." "The greatest means of salvation to-day," says Professor McKeever, "next to the power of divinity, is that of building character through sound and scientific training from early infancy to full maturity." The main divisions of the book—Industrial Training, Social Training, Habit Training, Vocational Training, Service Training—will give an idea of its scope and thoroughness. These two books of an evidently thoroughly practical man will be valuable in the hands of parents and teachers.

"There is no single factor in the advancement of righteousness and civilization which can be more influential and effective than the country church." So says Gifford Pinchot in his preface to **The Country Church**: The Decline of its Influence, and the Remedy, by Charles' Otis Gill and Gifford Pinchot (The Macmillan Company of Canada, 222 pages, \$1.25 net). The book is a careful and accurate study of actual present church conditions in Windsor County, Vermont and Tompkins County, New York, covering together a population of 50,000 people. These conditions, which are compared with the conditions twenty-five years ago, relate to church attendance and membership, contributions, ministers' salaries, equipment of ministers for their work, the number of churches, changes of population, etc. The result of the enquiry is, it must be owned, depressing. But facing the actual facts is always wholesome, and the volume is a substantial addition to the material for the estimating of the true present position of the rural church, and how this may be improved.

The Anglo-Indians, by Alice Perrin (The Musson Book Co., Toronto, 312 pages, \$1.25). The opening scene in **The Anglo-Indians** shows a young English girl watching the dawn come in in the Himalayan

Mountains. Its exquisite beauty entrances her and deepens her love for India, the country in which she has been born. This love of India by **The Anglo-Indian** is the *motif* of the story. The writer gives us an intimate picture both of the home life and life on tour of a high British official family, bringing out the charm of such life, which does much to counter-balance its discomforts. Its freedom and independence and interest make the Anglo-Indian look back longingly on it when he settles down in England, on a pension, his work over. The story contains a number of fine characters, including a young Indian rajah struggling toward high ideals. After so many tales of India emphasizing the somewhat fast and sporting side of life there, **The Anglo-Indians** brings a wholesome and pleasant change.

The *fortieth* annual volume of such a book as **Peloubet's Select Notes on the International Lessons** is a personal triumph to Dr. Peloubet, who has been the editor from the first, and to the W. A. Wilde Company, Boston the publishers. It signifies that the Notes have met a felt need adequately, and have kept pace with the improvements in Sunday School standards and methods. The co-editorship in recent years of Professor Amos R. Wells has still further added to the value of the Notes. This fortieth volume excels all its predecessors in substance and workmanship. The special place filled by Peloubet's Notes is the wealth of material gathered together from all sources, the fair statement of both sides of disputed points, and the fullness of illustration and anecdote. A copy of Peloubet's Notes (367 pages, \$1.10) puts the cap on a teacher's equipment for Lesson study.

Altogether exquisite in its make-up is the little booklet of 32 pages, **The Children's Christmas Tree**, by Frances Weld Danielson (Pilgrim Press, Boston, 25c.); and the stories and exercises for the Sunday School, Kindergarten or Day School which it contains are fresh and original. No fear of anything but a merry Christmas, if the exercises of Miss Danielson's little book are carried through with spirit.

Lesson Building, by Leon C. Palmer, General Secretary, Alabama Sunday School Association (Fleming H. Revell Company, Toronto and New York, 57 pages, 35c.), in its little more than a half hundred pages, contains many hints and suggestions which will be of value to the Sunday School teacher in the preparation and teaching of his lesson.

The purpose of **The Tutorial Prayer Book**, edited by Charles Neil, M.A., and J. M. Willoughby, D.D. (The Musson Book Company, Toronto, 654 pages, \$1.25), is indicated by its title. It takes the place of a private tutor and helps the reader to a full and systematic knowledge of the noble liturgy of the Anglican Church. While the book will be of special interest to members of that communion, it will make its appeal also to a much wider public. For the Prayer Book, as an aid to devotion, is valued and loved amongst all English-speaking Christians. And many will wish to know more of the history and contents of a book which they have long held dear.