

NEW BOOKS

"Why Men Pray."

By Charles Lewis Slattery, D.D. Toronto: The Macmillan Company. (75 cents net.)

Six chapters expressive of six convictions held by the author about Prayer. The titles are: "All Men Pray"; "Prayer discovers God"; "Prayer unites Men"; "God depends on Men's Prayer"; "Prayer submits to the best"; "Prayer receives God." On all these Dr. Slattery writes with uncommon freshness and real suggestion. This is pre-eminently a book that will prompt men to pray and enable them to get out of Prayer all that is possible. Those who are contemplating a course of sermons on Prayer should make a note of this book, while any who may be in any doubt or difficulty about the value and power of prayer will find here food for thought which will do much to convince them that "Prayer is the Christian's vital breath." A truly admirable and helpful book.

"Forest Protection in Canada, 1913-1914."

Compiled for the Commission of Conservation. Toronto: William Briggs.

This embodies the report of the Chief Forester, telling of how forests in the Dominion have been protected from fires. There are many interesting photographs, together with maps and diagrams and very full index. All who are interested in this important aspect of our Canadian life will be glad to see what intense and immense care is being given to the protection of our forests. There is no doubt that, as the report says, the work constitutes a national responsibility.

"The Progress of Doctrine in the New Testament."

By T. D. Bernard, M.A. London: A. Holness. (1s.)

For the first time this book is available at a very small cost. It is now over fifty years since the author delivered the substance of it in the form of "Bampton Lectures" and since then it has become a classic. Those who already value it will be glad to have it in this form for circulation, while those who do not yet know it should become acquainted as soon as possible with one of the most illuminating and inspiring books on the New Testament.

"The Students of Asia."

By Sherwood Eddy. New York: Student Volunteer Movement. (Cloth, 50 cents, prepaid.)

Work among students is always interesting and valuable, but this is particularly the case when the students are Asiatic. In this volume a well-known worker shows the present attitude to Christianity of students of China, Japan and India, and at the same time something of the kind of men and women found in these Eastern institutions. In the course of eight chapters and four appendixes Mr. Eddy discusses some of the outstanding questions, and, drawing from a long and full experience, he has provided much food for thought and prayer. Those who recall the story published in these columns of Mr. Eddy's recent remarkable tour in China and India will be particularly glad to welcome this truly valuable volume.

"Personalism and the Problems of Philosophy."

By Ralph Tyler Flewelling. New York: The Methodist Book Concern. (\$1 net.)

We are all philosophers whether we know it or not, and the fundamental problem is the nature of reality or being. Then come questions of space, time and knowledge. Thinkers have discussed these for ages and generally divide themselves into two main schools. In this book both are sketched and criticized and the difficulties are shown to be met and overcome by the philosophy associated with the great American thinker Bowne. The problem of personality is the basis of all the best modern thought for in it alone lies the solution of the great questions of life. All the profoundest thinkers in modern days face this problem, and the present work is largely an appreciation of Bowne and is, therefore, naturally concerned with the supreme question of the ages. The German philosopher, Eucken, contributes an introduction, though this will be no recommendation to English readers in view of that philosopher's astonishing bias and prejudice in connection with the war. A man who can take the line he has is hardly worthy of attention, however profound may be his philosophical thought. But Bowne is independent of Eucken, and the philosophy here stated is well worthy of attention. The book can be warmly commended to all students of philosophy as introducing them to one of the ablest, most acute and most satisfying philosophies of the present day.

With Canadian Soldiers in England

THE evening ended, of course, with the King, and as the men left the hut on their way back to their quarters, and the clear notes of the First Post rang out across the snow, one did thank God for the work of the Y.M.C.A. in thus helping effectually to meet both the material and spiritual needs of these bright lads, who have surrendered positions of importance and comparative wealth and comfort for the cause of King and country, and are prepared if need be to make the greatest sacrifice of all in this hour of the Empire's need."

Thus writes an Anglican clergyman, Rev. G. R. Wreford, M.A., F.R.G.S., in summing up his impressions of a week-end visit at Bramshott Camp, where the National Council of the Y.M.C.A.'s of Canada has had its representatives at work among the soldiers ever since the Canadian forces were quartered there. Readers of "The Churchman" are more or less familiar with the military services of the Y.M.C.A., and this testimony from an English visitor will come with additional weight.

"The Y.M.C.A.," he writes, "are responsible for three huts at Bramshott, two situated beside the main road and a third not far from the Red Cross Hospital."

"One found the same quiet, useful work going on as we had been privileged to witness last winter on Salisbury Plain amid the men of Canada's first contingent. But the work is no longer on quite the same scale as then. Organization is now more perfect than a year ago, and the men soon after landing in England are sent forward to the front without so long a preliminary training in this country as then was needful."

"The leader of No. 1 hut has arranged near the platform a series of pigeon holes, containing portions of the Gospels, some of the splendid books by Mr. Yapp and similar literature, both in French and English." He saw again and again men going up for these.

"I always like to read a verse or two of this," said a lad to the writer, holding up a Gospel, as he stood drinking coffee by the counter.

"On Sunday evening," Mr. Wreford goes on, "a talk on Palestine was arranged, illustrated by lantern views and this was preceded by a sacred concert on the fine gramophone with which the hut is supplied."

This work among the Canadian soldiers overseas will be carried on on a much larger scale in future in order to keep pace with the needs and the increasing number of men at the front.

AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL SONG.

Words by Arthur H. Adams. Music by Theodore Fourrier.

Vast the heritage we hold,
League on endless league unrolled,
Splashed with sun and wattle gold,
God's domain, Australia!

Great our opportunity,
Greater must our courage be;
For our race we hold in fee
God's domain, Australia!

Sons of those who won the sea,
Of Imperial blood are we;
Ours the country of the free—
God's domain, Australia!

Freedom for our onward stride!
Wide our continent, and wide
Are the faiths and hopes that guide
God's domain, Australia!

Though begirt with guardian seas,
Not in careless, slothful ease
Shall we shield thy liberties—
God's domain, Australia!

Loyal scions of our race,
Ready chance and change to face,
We shall die, but ne'er disgrace
God's domain, Australia!

Dr. Campbell Morgan, who recently joined the Church of England is to preach in Westminster Chapel every Sunday during April, May and June.

A Misunderstood Text

G. W. WINCKLER.

Jesus saith unto Peter, "Verily I say unto thee that this day even this night, before the cock crow twice thou shalt deny me thrice."—MARK xiv. 30.

THE Evangelist Mark categorically gives details of the three occasions of this denial. Immediately after Peter's first denial, "the cock crew," then there was an interval, when for the second time Peter denied his Lord; then for the third time with cursing and swearing he again denied and immediately the "second time the cock crew." Between Peter's three denials there were just two cock crowings as was foretold by the Master.

When a small boy, I was greatly interested, not so much in Peter as in that extraordinary cock. I was acquainted with the barnyard, for my father kept chickens, but I never heard a rooster crow only once and stop, then after a long interval crow just once more and stop. I knew very well that when a rooster once began, he gave a series of 10 or 15 crows and nothing would stop him until he closed that series, but this rooster of Peter's just crowed once and stopped, and then, after a long interval, crowed again and stopped.

As the second "Morning lessons," appointed by the Church ran their yearly course and this narrative again was read, I used to worry everybody I knew, father, mother and aunt, about this cock, when, of course, I was properly snubbed and silenced—"Miracle my child!" I asked my father of what breed that cock was and like most fathers, I suppose, he bounced me out. I asked an elderly man (whom I then did not know was a scoffer) about this wonderful cock and whether he had ever reared such a bird? "Oh, no," he replied, "probably Peter's wife's mother was the only woman who knew how."

Later, when I reached man's estate, I heard sermons on this text, but none touched the point I was most interested in, except a passing remark of how God controlled the powers and capacities of this bird, to fulfil his warning and to give Peter a lasting lesson. Later still, I looked up Commentaries, and they spoke likewise. Here is what that grand old man Adam Clark says—one would have expected better of him:—

"This animal (sic) becomes in the hand of God the instrument of awaking the fallen Apostle at last to a sense of his fall, danger and duty."

Let us ever remember that the great Apostle Peter fell through fear of a servant maid and rose through the crowing of a cock." Likewise Albert Barnes and others.

Only four years ago I viewed a sacred moving picture-show, under the auspices of a certain church, where this scene was depicted. There appeared most of the characters all appropriately placed with the servant maid and Peter gesticulating, and right in their midst in the judgment hall, and at that time of night, if you please, was a grand old rooster, strutting about messing up things generally. Wouldn't that show have delighted the small boy? It grieved me now. "Error dies hard."

What then is the explanation of the text? Was it a real live rooster which crowed under miraculous intervention, or was it something more sane and credible? Notice first that the definite article is wanting in the original; instead of "the cock," as in the A.V., it is "a cock" as in the Revised and other versions, and the explanation I had best give by quoting from the E.D.:—

"The Romans who had a strong guard in the castle of Antonia which overlooked the Temple, divided the night into four watches beginning at six, nine, twelve and three. Mark 13: 35 alludes to this division of time. The two last watches were both called 'cock crowings.' The Romans relieved guard at each watch by sound of trumpet; the trumpet of the third watch was called the 'first' and that of the fourth, the 'second cock.' When it is said 'a cock crew,' the meaning is, the trumpet sounded to change guards."

DR. GRENFELL'S FAVOURITE BOOKS.

Dr. Grenfell, of Labrador, declares that the two books outside the Bible which have influenced him most are Dr. Charles M. Sheldon's "In His Steps," which taught him how a consecrated man might work for his Master, and "Gulliver's Travels," which made him examine his purposes in life. He thinks the value of the latter book lies in its holding up to ridicule the triviality of much of the worldly striving in its pictures of the Lilliputians busied about things that do not matter.

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