

Book Notices.

"Discourses on War." By William Ellery Channing. Boston: Ginn & Co. Toronto: William Briggs. Price, 50 cents net; mailing price, 60 cents.

This is the third volume in the International Library, published for the International Union. The name of Channing is well known in the cause of peace and better international relations. He was one of the founders of the Massachusetts Peace Society, the first influential Peace Society in the world. He is convinced that war is opposed to the spirit of Christianity. The present volume seeks especially to awaken ministers and Christian people to the need of fighting the military spirit of the times. He does not assert blindly that war is never necessary. He admits that when it is the last and only method of repelling lawless ambition and invaded liberty it is then justifiable. But he believes that all too often it is but a horrible slaughter for the sake of vengeance, or the greed of dominion, or other unworthy pleas. In these burning and eloquent discourses he sets forth the causes and results of war, as also its remedies, chief of which is the spirit of Christian brotherhood. One feels of the first discourses, however, that they are of the wars of a century ago rather than those of to-day.

"Personal Salvation." A Treatment of the Doctrines of Conversion and Christian Experience. By Edward N. Cantwell. B.D. New York: Eaton & Mains. Toronto: William Briggs. Pp. 216. Price, 75 cents.

The experience of personal conversion is the hinge on which religious life turns. It is the great object of preaching in our churches and teaching in our Sunday-schools. Its primal importance should never be forgotten nor overlooked. This little book treats judiciously this all-important subject. The preparation for conversion on its human and divine sides, spiritual enlightenment, awakening, conviction, decision, and the divine process by which a child of wrath becomes a child of God. The book will be of practical value for teachers and preachers.

"Eden and Gethsemane." Addresses for Communion Services. By Principal Alexander Stewart, D.D., and others. Manchester: James Robinson. Toronto: William Briggs.

This book is a collection of discourses by men well known in the pulpit. The work bears entirely on the communion services, giving brief addresses suited to the table service, also longer ones dealing with such subjects as fitness for this sacrament, its meaning, its social value, its relation to personal faith, the sacramental aspect of common things, the sufferings of Christ, etc. These discourses by different authors are, of course, of varied styles. But all are alike clear, concise, and concentrated in thought. There is no waste of words. All who go up to the table of the Lord, and, indeed, all who withdraw from it, will find here rich food for meditation. The writers have made very plain the various aspects and privileges of this solemn feast of the children of God.

"Addresses on War." By Charles Sumner. Boston: Ginn & Company. Toronto: William Briggs.

This second in the series of the International Library consists of three stirring and powerful appeals for the abolition of war. In these lectures Sumner maintains that the true grandeur of a nation is not in its acquisition of territory, not in its prowess on the field of battle, but in what it has done for humanity.

War is not only unjust but unnecessary among civilized nations; for inasmuch as the nations have agreed to stake their causes of dispute on trial by battle, so they could agree to settle them by a more reasonable and righteous method. The United States spent eighty cents of every dollar of its annual appropriation for military and naval purposes, and only twenty for all the other purposes of government, executive, legislative, and judicial. The writer is perhaps a little overzealous of the republican form of government, but he pleads the cause of peace in words of eloquence and fire. Like the other books of the series there is an introduction worthy of note by Edwin D. Mead.