

Book Notices.

Christmas at Surf Point. By WILLIS BOYD ALLEN. Pp. 169. Boston and Chicago: Congregational Sunday-school and Publishing Society. \$1.00.

The reputation of the author, acquired by *Pine Cones and Silver Rag*, both of which have had an exceptionally large circulation, will at once indicate the character of this new venture. Mr. Allen's style is sprightly and animated; of the kind particularly liked by boys. His sketches have their "morals," but they are deftly worked in, and have the very flavor of the stories themselves. The book is capitably and profusely illustrated, and will be in popular demand in every Sunday-school library where it may be placed.

Miss Charity's House. By HOWE BENNING. Pp. 353. Boston and Chicago: Congregational Sunday-school and Publishing Society. \$1.25.

Miss Charity, by inheritance, had a house, and that was about all she had. Her income was cut down until it barely afforded her a support. Economy was quite necessary to make ends meet. But Miss Charity became dissatisfied with living merely for herself, and inasmuch as she could not give away money to help others, concluded to make use of her house. The story tells how she invited some poor sick factory girls into her home, and how much they and she herself was benefited by the act. They became well, and she became one of the most lovable and delightful of old maiden ladies. The story is both charming and touching, and it would not be strange if it suggested to many how much good they might do with just the means they have.

Bible Children. By Rev. MORTIMER BLAKE, D.D. 240 pp. Price \$1.25. Boston and Chicago: Congregational Sunday-school and Publishing Society.

This is a volume of sermons to children. Happy as was Dr. Blake in his sermonizing for grown people, he was still more apt in addressing the little folks. It is a rare gift to be able to speak to children, and Dr. Blake possessed the gift in an eminent degree. The collection of sermons will be welcomed by parents, for in it they will find just the reading suited for Sunday afternoons.

Responsive Readings in the Revised Version. Edited by Rev. J. T. DURYEA, D.D. Pp. 132. Boston and Chicago: Congregational Sunday-school and Publishing Society.—Price 50 cents, net.

These are selections chiefly from the Psalms, but also from the Prophets, the Gospels, Epistles, and the Revelation, for the use of congregations in public worship. The most of the selections are appropriate to the ordinary services of the Lord's Day, but some are

adapted to such special occasions as Christmas, Easter, Thanksgiving Day, etc. In one respect the Revised Version has strongly commended itself, and that is in changes made in the Psalms. They have gained much and lost nothing by the alteration. That Dr. Duryea is eminently fitted, both by scholarship and good taste, to furnish just such a selection as is needed, is evident in the book before us.

Enderby Bible Class. By Miss M. E. WINSLOW. Boston and Chicago: Congregational Sunday-school and Publishing Society. Price \$1.25.

Those who have read "Katie Robertson" and "Three Years at Glenwood," will need no invitation to take up this book. It tells of what came of asking the members of the Enderby Bible Class to fill out, each for himself or herself, the blank in the sentence: "For me to live is —." Grace Dillingham was led, after some inward struggles, to fill it out: "For me to live is Christ." The change in her character was quite marked, though she was not instantly transformed to a saint, and had her conflicts and discouragements like other flesh-and-blood Christians.

St. Nicholas Songs. New York: The Century Co. 4to. 190 pp. Price \$2.00.

This is the most charming collection of songs and music for the little folks that we have ever seen. It is not a Sunday-school book, although it has some beautiful religious pieces—Christmas and Easter Hymns, etc. It is made up chiefly of songs for the nursery and the parlor. The quaint pictures and beautiful music will be a never-ending source of delight to the little folk. The book contains no less than 112 of these songs, by 32 composers, with 140 illustrations. Among the composers of the original music are Leopold Damrosch, F. J. Hatton, A. G. Fisher, W. W. Gilchrist, and other first-class musicians. It will be a charming Christmas present. The book was published last Christmas at \$3.50, but the demand was so great that it was re-produced at the reduced price of \$2, and is now in its ninth thousand.

Walks and Talks in the Geological Field. By ALEXANDER WINCHELL, LL.D. New York: Chautauqua Press; Toronto: Wm. Briggs. Price \$1.10.

The Chautauqua course of reading for 1886-7 is, we think, the most interesting which has been yet announced. It combines a good deal of Natural Science with interesting historical and religious reading, and two volumes of literary criticism—English and French. The book above-named is one used in the early part of the season. It is written in Dr. Winchell's most charming style, and leads the young reader on from the simplest elements to the more abstruse principles. Few who begin the study will give it up till the complete treatise is mastered—so does the fascination of the theme grow on the reader. We hope that very