

Books and Periodicals Dept.

Eight Notes on the Art of Writing and Delivering a Sermon. By "Landred Lewis," Milwaukee, Wis: The Young Churchman Co.

Every clergyman should read this valuable little book of 71 well printed pages. Price, 25 cents. It is written in excellent humor from the beginning to the end, and contains a number of valuable hints as to the manner of studying for a sermon, writing it, and delivering it. The author sees no reason why written sermons might not be made as effective and as attractive as the so-called extemporaneous discourses. And in this we think he is right. And there is this additional merit in written sermons that, if well and judiciously composed, studied and delivered, they are more likely to endure than extemporaneous effusions. It will be found, we think, that in nine cases out of ten the best of so-called "extempore sermons" are merely carefully written discourses that have been committed to memory. And while this may be easy for some clergymen to do, there are others to whom it would be an intolerable burden and a life-long slavery. Sermons prepared and delivered according to the eight valuable hints found in this book would strike the happy medium.

The foolish notion that inspiration comes only to the speaker and not to the writer is playfully, yet vigorously, knocked on the head, and the inevitable result of thinking on the feet only must be the speedy deterioration of matter, which, after all, is the true food, and the consequent desire of a clergyman to seek some new parish. Both he and his people feel that he is "talked out," or "pumped dry." John Wesley, as the writer well remarks, saw, with keen foresight, that the Methodist style of preaching and the itinerating plan must necessarily go together. But written sermons need not be *booky* in style, and should not be so. They should contain the clearness, warmth, and incisive glow of true oratory, which can be obtained only by patient and sensible study of the work that has to be done, and the best method of doing it. What a thousand pities it is that theological students are not carefully trained in the valuable points thus touched upon! It is left for a man's own "mother wit," which some men do not possess in great abundance, to find out a style for himself. As a rule, his theological training has done little or nothing for him, the professors themselves being sometimes but the poorest models for young men to imitate, and on which to mould their style of preaching. The Anglican Church, all over the world, should turn its attention most vigorously to this all important subject. "Landred Lewis" is on a good track. Let him persevere in it.

The Threifold Ministry of the Church of Christ. By Rt. Rev. J. F. Spalding, S. T. D., Bishop of Colorado, Milwaukee: The Young Churchman Co., 1887. Price 10 cents.

A handy little compendium of Episcopacy and

the three orders, as seen in Scripture and early Church history, giving the names in succession of the early bishops of Jerusalem, Antioch, Alexandria, Rome and England.

The Brooklyn Magazine has not yet changed its name. The day for the happy event was named, but has been deferred till later on, when, like a blushing bride, it hopes with a change of name, to arrive at an improved condition. It is always full of interesting matter of a moral tone. \$2.00 a year. 132 Pearl street, New York.

The Missionary Review is now published in New York, and has become a monthly instead of a bi monthly periodical. It is an earnest and able advocate of general missionary work throughout the Christian world. It is independent of "denominations" or societies, though fair to all. It is devoted entirely to missionary work, without thought of money making or gain, the profits of publication, if any, being devoted to foreign missions.

The Diocese of Nassau, Bahama Islands, publishes a very neat quarterly Mission Paper, some copies of which have been kindly sent us by Rev. Canon Churton, of Cambridge, who is one of the bishop's commissaries in England. The diocese has, besides the bishop (Rt. Rev. Dr. Churton), thirteen priests and two deacons.

From Canon Gaul, Kimberly, South Africa, we have also received several copies of the *Griqualand West Church Magazine*, from which we gather numerous signs of active and vigorous Church work in that distant region. The bishop is Rt. Rev. G. W. H. Knight-Bruce, of Bloemfontein.

Rouge et Noir, the students' paper of Trinity University, Toronto, is a creditable periodical. The articles are original and well written, but why will our young friends persist in the ungainly name that they have given to it? Apart from its unsavory connection with the gaming table (which must necessarily offend some), it has a pedantic look. Why give a good, honest Anglican paper a French name? Call it "Red and Black," if the college colors must appear.

EPIPHANY APPEAL.

The Treasurer, as yet, has received but few returns in response to the Epiphany Appeal; but he hopes next month to have a good and, from present indications, an encouraging return to make.

THEY call me the Bishop of the Church of England for Mid-China—that means a population of a hundred millions at least; but the length and breadth in which I have practically to continue walking to and fro is but as one of the cyphers of that great figure—it is between fifteen and twenty millions.—*Bishop Moule.*