

Looks into Books.

THE COMMUNION REGISTER.—Second edition: revised and improved. By Rev. Louis H. Jordan, M.A., B.D. Montreal, W. Drysdale and Co. Price, \$2.50.

A minister is greatly aided in the faithful discharge of his pastoral duties, if he keep himself informed as to the regularity or irregularity of the attendance of the memberships upon the Communion Services. To this end every Session should provide itself with a good Official Record, and delegate one of its number to keep the same constantly posted. Mr. Jordan's undertaking to supply such a Register has been entirely successful, the present edition being a revision of the Roll Book already well-known in our Canadian congregations. The scheme of arrangement is such that the Register may be adopted to a great variety of circumstances, and to the conditions governing the celebration of the Communion by Denominations other than Presbyterian. The blank Statistical Tables are a special feature, and will prove of great service: for they enable one to perceive at a glance the precise state of the Roll at any particular date. They reveal thus, in their initial stages, those evidences of declension or growth of which the successful pastor needs constantly to be aware.

THE PASTOR'S DIARY AND CLERICAL RECORD.—Non-Denominational. Twelfth edition. By Rev. Louis H. Jordan, B.D. Montreal, W. Drysdale and Co. Prices: cloth, 75c; leather, \$1.00.

Mr. Jordan says in his preface:—"It has long been felt that, in order to the easy and efficient discharge of ordinary pastoral work a suitable Pocket Companion is simply indispensable. Frequent attempts have therefore been made, both in Britain and America, to prepare a Diary which, while sufficiently compact and brief would also be comprehensive in its contents, and so arranged as to admit of ready reference. This little Book, accordingly, aims to avoid the faults of its predecessors, while at the same time it attempts to supply their defects. It is sent forth in the hope that it may prove a convenient and useful aid to those who are engaged in the work of the minister." We are glad to know that this Handbook,—formerly published in New York, but now controlled by Hunter and Co, Edinburgh,—has already found its way into the hands of many of our ministers. It is decidedly the most complete and handy little *cademecum* that we know of.

MEMORIALS OF FOREIGN MISSIONARIES OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, U.S.A., by William Rankin, late Treasurer of the Foreign Mission Board. Cloth 8vo, pp. 468, price \$2.00. The Presbyterian Board, Philadelphia. N. T. Wilson, Toronto.

This is a necrological record of missionaries in the foreign service of the American Presbyterian Church, who have passed away in the service. In this volume dealing with more than 250 names the sketches must necessarily be brief. They consist chiefly of a judicious selection of the memorial notices that appeared in the various church papers in connection with the death of each. This method has the advantage of giving a condensed statement of essential facts from the most authentic sources. For most of the notices were written by those most intimate with the life and work of the departed missionaries, in their several spheres of labor. Though there is this diversity of authorship, it is all of a remarkably high order.

The names are arranged in alphabetic order for ease of reference. There is also an index or summary by missions, from which the names of deceased missionaries in any field can be learned at a glance.

The introductory chapter, written by Rev. J. C. Lowrie, D.D., for a former manual, has been retained as it sets forth in a most interesting way, the prompting causes and sustaining motives for all this heroic devotion to the work of Foreign Missions.

Appended to these brief sketches are notices of the five deceased Corresponding Secretaries of the Board, and a narration of events at Futtelegori in the Sepoy revolt of 1857, relating to the eight martyred missionaries.

There is great variety in these records. Some were called to lay down their labors at the very beginning, others were spared to old age. Some excelled as teachers others as preachers, organizers or field workers, showing the great diversity of vessels our Lord employs. Some died peaceably on their beds in the midst of loving family and friends, others were murdered by savages, others again and again, perished alone in the open field with no eye but God's looking on.

In every case the record shows that men and women were thoroughly devoted to the cause of Christ and preferred to serve him in laboring for the salvation of heathen, to any other work. Death is met calmly and cheerfully. Nor is there any tone of discouragement or defeat.

No volume issued in recent times has higher apologetic value in showing how the Grace of God sustains the heart in the face of the greatest dangers and severest trials, how the truth of God never loses its lustre, but is held with stronger grasp at the very gates of death.

The reading of this book will act as a spiritual tonic to many, in the home land, who are discouraged by difficulties or dangers. It will prove profitable and inspiring to all who wish to find a narrative of the triumphs of redeeming love.

While constituting a precious memorial of those who have gone it will fire the hearts of many in the years to come, to go out and do likewise.

The book is produced in very substantial workmanship and should find a place in every Presbyterian family in Canada. We predict for it a large and continued sale.

THE CHRISTIAN LIFE.—Addresses delivered in Toronto by the Rev. Andrew Murray D.D., and revised by the author for publication. Price 85 cts. Fleming H. Revell, Co. Toronto.

To all who listened to the eminent South African divine when in Toronto this little volume will come as a delightful remembrance of those days of rich spiritual blessing. It contains his seven addresses on the Christian life, each of which is in itself and mine of wealth to any seeking a closer walk with God, and a knowledge of those deeper truths which we may experience although we do not fully understand. The titles of the addresses tell more of the contents than we can say in the brief space at our disposal,—“Daily Fellowship with God, Privilege and Experience, Carnal or Spiritual, Out of and Into, The Blessing Secured, The Presence of Christ, and A Word to Workers.” We recommend this book unreservedly to all eager to possess the fitness of life which is in Christ Jesus.

BRINGS IMMORTALITY and other Poems by MacKenzie Bell (second edition). London and New York, Ward Lock and Bowden. Cloth, uncut leaves, Price 3s 6d.

Some of these poems have the rare quality of remaining in the memory. The volume contains much that lovers of genuine poetry will cherish. Throughout one is struck by the evidence given of a sympathetic personality expressing itself in clear and well-turned strains. Everywhere the workmanship is good, the spirit serene, the standpoint generous.

ZEROLA OF NAZARETH, by Louis Barron. Cloth, illustrated, 50 cts. Chas. J. Munson, Toronto.

For mechanical and literary excellence this is one of the most admirable of the new fall books. In every sense it is artistic. The heroine is a young Jewess, as beautiful as only those of that oriental nation know how to be, who is loved by two men, one a youth of her own race, the other a descendant of Cleopatra. Some of the scenes of the story are quite exciting, and some are very pathetic. Zerola is a lovely character though intensely human, and her story is romantic and charming. Admirers of “Ben-Hur” will be highly pleased with “Zerola of Nazareth.” The two tales are somewhat similar, but yet quite different.

JACOB FAITHFUL, by Capt. Marryat. New edition, cloth, small leaves. New York and London, Macmillan & Co. Toronto, The Copp Clark Co. Ltd. Price \$1.50.

Another volume in the same series of reprints is Capt. Marryat's well-known *Jacob Faithful*, which Thackeray called his “beloved” Jacob Faithful, and which made him remember with a great deal of pleasure and gratitude a fit of the fever and ague on board a Mississippi steamer, during which he amused himself with it from morning to sunset. It is, indeed, just the book to beguile a heavily hanging hour or so, bright, cheerful entertaining, carrying the brave and honest hero in most delightful fashion up from the humble sphere of his boyhood to a position of usefulness and honor, and ending as it should, with the orthodox “and so they were married, and lived happy ever after,” of all the comfortable old stories before “realism” came in. The numerous illustrations, by Henry Brock, are drawn with much spirit and delicacy, and supplement the lively narrative very pleasantly.

MACMILLAN'S COLONIAL LIBRARY.—All uniform in style. Cloth \$1.25. Toronto, The Copp Clark Co., Ltd.

Rolf Boldrewood, whose “Robbery Under Arms” has proved such a success, has written another book on much the same order published in the Colonial Library, under the title “The Crooked Stick; or, Pollie's Probation.” It opens well, and in that scrimmage with the Australian bushrangers, followed not long after by a veritable cloud-burst so welcomed by the parching plantations, we thought we were going to have a story of rare interest. But it peters out and loses much of its flavor of originality. Among the