

Literary Notes.

A Miracle of African Missions, The Story of Matula, a Congo Convert; by John Bell, Baptist Missionary, Walhen, Congo. Fleming H. Revell Co., Toronto, 60 c. This is an interesting story of evangelistic work among a very savage, superstitious people: it shows the great depth of degradation into which some of the African people have sunk and the capability that they still possess, in many cases, of rising to heroic heights of intelligent faith and loyal service. In this small, attractive volume we have the life story of a native of the Congo region, who was gradually brought under the influence of the gospel in spite of great hindrances and who proved his faithfulness by facing persecution. The story is well told and the writer is evidently a man who is completely consecrated to religious work among these needy people. It adds one more worthy chapter to the increasing library of missionary literature.

Select Poems of Alfred Tennyson, with Memoirs, Introduction and Annotations. Edited by A. H. Reynar, M.A., LL.D., Professor of English Literature, Victoria University, Toronto, assisted by Miss Gertrude Lawlor, M.A., Harbord Collegiate Institute, Toronto. Cloth 50c, paper 30c. W. J. Gage & Co., Toronto. The association of Professor Reynar and Miss Lawlor in the preparation of this volume is an assurance of its exceptional value. It opens with a sketch of the poet's life prepared from the memoir by his son Hallam, as a key to the interpretation of the poems. The text is that of the Oxford University Press. The notes show the date of the composition of each poem, give interpretative lines from other poets, short critical extracts, with explanatory comment on all words, phrases or passages requiring it. A unique feature is the exercise which guides the student in the best way to enter sympathetically into the poem and master it for himself. The volume has a chronological table, a list of works of reference, portraits, illustrations and a facsimile of the manuscript of "The Brook."

Birds in Their Relation to Man. A Manual of Economic Ornithology for the United States and Canada. By Clarence M. Weed, D.Sc., Professor of Zoology and Entomology, New Hampshire College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts; and Ned Dearborn, D.Sc., Assistant Curator, Department of Birds, Field Columbian Museum, Chicago. Price \$2.50. J. B. Lippincott & Co., Philadelphia. The study of birds has been pursued for many years in the United States and Canada. Several treatises dealing with its scientific and aesthetic interests have appeared, yet it is only recently that the economic aspect of the subject has received consideration. A few isolated articles or monographs on single sections of economic ornithology have appeared, but here is the first systematic treatise covering the whole field as at present known. The book grew out of a series of lectures given to college classes by Professor Weed. The relation of birds to man is considered in the introduction. Then follow chapters dealing with methods of studying birds, the development of economic ornithology, the vegetable food, the relations of birds to predaceous and injurious insects and their value as regulators of their injurious outbreaks. Then follow thirteen chapters giving the results

of careful and prolonged investigation of various classes of birds. There are abundant illustrations reproduced from photographs of living birds or stuffed specimens. There are also charts and maps of the order of distribution which have distinct value. It is in short a most important and valuable volume that deserves wide circulation in this country.

The Master of Millions, by George C. Lorimer. Fleming H. Revell Company, Toronto. \$1.25. This is, we believe, Dr. Lorimer's first venture into the realm of fiction and in our judgment it is quite a successful one. We are told that "this is not a problem novel, but simply a story that begins and ends with the one subject of eternal interest, human life." We are further informed that "the author has written this story after years spent in collecting the material out of a life time crowded with experience." After reading the book we can cordially endorse these statements. The story is one that lives and moves. The characters are drawn with real dramatic skill. The book is not a sermon in disguise though it does suggest many deep thoughts concerning this constant struggle that we call human life. The principal character, the poor Scotch boy who becomes a multi-millionaire, is well drawn, and our interest is kindled in the experience of one who is really master of the millions instead of being mastered by them. It is not possible for us in a few words to give even the outline of the story; for that our readers may consult the book; there they will find that the tale hangs well together, that the varied scenes are well sketched and the interest sustained to the close. While it reflects much of the "seamy side" of human life the story is wholesome and will no doubt be read with pleasure by a large number of people.

The Temptation of Jesus, by A. Morris Stewart, M.A., Fleming H. Revell Company, Toronto, \$1.25. This volume is, as its sub-title indicates, "A Study of Our Lord's Trial in the Wilderness." The great aim of the author is to apply the lessons of the Temptation in such a way as to give help to those who are seeking to live a Christian life. It is not a theological treatise but a series of plain expositions, orthodox in doctrine, reverent in spirit, clear, vigorous and sometimes beautiful in expression. While the book is modern in tone, there is no attempt to go deep into the mystery of our Lord's nature. The real practical lessons are, however, applied in a skillful way to the present need of the struggling soul. The following passage will show the sanity, strength and simplicity of the author's point of view. Dealing with the reaction after the excessive strain of temptation he says: "Here comes in our need of healing ministry to meet our tendency to what is morbid. Those who fear blasphemy are not those who blaspheme; they suffer a malaise which is more akin to nightmare than to sin, and whose immediate cause should be sought in a physical rather than a spiritual fault. If we sin against the spirit of God, it shall be in acts and not words, and in affection rather than thought. There is a great fatigue after spiritual strain, because our soul is tenanted within a body that is feeble at the best. There is an exhaustion after ecstasy, whose collapse is physical and must not be confounded with the inertia of unfaithfulness or with lapse into sin. There is a de-

pression after inspiration, which aptly simulates ungodly despair, and is amongst the deepest pains the heart can know. We climb no height of emotional experience, but there is a dark valley beneath it, and our path lies down there. On the height we must see the valley before we enter it, and take with us the understanding there gained, to explain and alleviate its gloom." The book will, we trust, be a means of help and inspiration to many.

Side Lights on Immortality, by Levi Gilbert, D.D., Fleming H. Revell Co., \$1.00. This book is what it purports to be, "a plain argument in the form of literature" with a view to the "needs of Christian believers." It is a book which will appeal to the masses rather than to the classes. The metaphysician or psychologist would not find any of the arguments convincing. The argument from the connection of the belief in immortality with belief in the existence of God is neither clearly stated nor carried to a logical conclusion. The same can be said of the author's handling of the argument from the existence of belief in immortality as an elemental instinctive idea in the human soul. Of course these two positions, which are the strongest proofs of immortality, belong to the sphere of special branches of philosophy into which the author has not attempted to go. The reader is appealed to most strongly from the side of sentiment. It is not a book written by one who has doubted or disbelieved the whole doctrine and has battled through disbelief to form faith. This class of reader will, therefore, be disappointed. The book is by a believer who sees a greatness and feels an interest in the theme. Its appeal will, therefore, be mostly to those whose faith is unshaken but who feel an interest in the doubter and a sympathy for the doctrine. In the small volume over seventy different authors are quoted by name. To many others reference is made, and there are copious quotations from authors not specified. These quotations exhibit many points of view and it is a work of genius to weave them all into the text so smoothly. Like so many evangelical authors, Dr. Gilbert scarcely credits the adverse critics of the doctrine with sincerity of study or purity of motives. He apologetically refers to great men who have at times expressed themselves doubtfully, but is voluminous in his quotations from those who evince an unshaken faith. It is perhaps well for us all to remember that to insert a negative in an opponent's assertion is no argument and does not disprove his position. Neither does any reference to a person effect the arguments he adduces, for after all the human soul seeks ever the rest that a satisfied reason gives. And the last word is not said upon any subject till reason is satisfied. In style the book is free and clear, well suited to inspire interest in the theme and to lead to further study of the various authors quoted. We have much pleasure, therefore, in recommending it for the careful perusal of the general reader.

The Old Camper.

Has for forty-five years had one article in his supply—Borden's Eagle Brand Condensed Milk. It gives to soldiers, sailors, hunters, campers and makes a daily comfort, "like the old home." Delicious in coffee, tea and chocolate.