

Why We Fail as Christians is the discriminating title of an arresting book by Robert Hunter (The Macmillan Company, New York, The Macmillan Company of Canada, Toronto, 180 pages, \$1.75). Mr. Hunter knows very well that, in spite of the War, that there has been no failure in Christianity. He would probably agree with the dictum that, instead of Christianity having failed, it has been found difficult, and has therefore never been tried. But Mr. Hunter knows, as we all know, that there has been failure in Christians. And he thinks that he can point out the reason for this failure. It is due, in his judgment, simply to a radical misunderstanding of the teachings of the founder of Christianity. He finds the real meaning of those teachings illustrated in the life and writings of Tolstoy, and the first half of the book is occupied with showing, in detail, the conception of Christian ethics held and practised by that great Russian socialist. The remainder of the volume is an attempt to demonstrate, that communism, so far from being a temporary and local experiment of the Christian church, was intended to be the universal and permanent practice of the church. Mr. Hunter's explanation of "Why we fail as Christians," is that the principles of communism have been abandoned and that Christians have given their countenance and support to a social system which permits extremes of wealth and poverty. There will

be plenty of people who will disagree with this explanation and reject the reasoning based upon it; but, Mr. Hunter's presentation of his case is a challenge to honest and thorough thinking on the problems raised in his book.

How to tell a story so that the listeners may not only hear but "see" the characters and their surroundings is what Mary Stewart endeavors to show us in **Tell Me a Story I Never Heard Before** (Loening H. Revell Co., New York, 283 pages, \$1.50), the latest of her charming Tell-Me-A-Story books. In this book the author not only tells the wonderful stories of birds and animals and flowers and fairies from all over the world, but she also gives the secret of how best to retell the stories to the children for whom they are written. Quaint shadow pictures by Rachel Lyman Field freely illustrate the volume and make it something in which not only the tiniest child will rejoice, but will be of equal interest to the grown-ups who are fortunate enough to see them.

Childhood and Character, by Hugh Hartshorne, Assistant Professor of Religious Education in the Union Theological Seminary New York (282 pages, \$1.75, postage extra), is one of a series of manuals of Religious Education for Parents and Teachers published by The Pilgrim Press, Boston and

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