

'When Thou hast disposed a heart
 Saving truth with joy to hear,
 Utterance, Lord, Thou dost impart
 To Thy chosen messenger;
 Then he finds the Scripture key,
 Then he speaks and preaches Thee.' "

—From the "New Methodist Hymn Book and its Writers."

OUR LIBRARY TABLE.

A COMPLETE Christian's manual (1), setting forth fully and clearly a believer's duty to his Father and his neighbour, and that solely in the words of Holy Writ, without a single comment by the compiler, is indeed an acquisition; and we gladly welcome Mr. Ellis's useful and helpful book. Its utility is greatly enhanced by three copious and intelligible indices.

A book of lectures (2), "political, social, and religious," seems to indicate a wide range of thought on the part of the speaker and writer, and the reader will not be disappointed. Mr. Tomkins writes lucidly, logically, and temperately, and though we cannot but differ with him on several points, we can none the less admire his perspicuity and candour. The book is wonderfully cheap, and the publishers must have anticipated a large sale.

Dr. Faunce has done good service in his last book (3), first stating, and then refuting, many objections to the validity of the Bible. Every point is clearly and succinctly given, and the author demonstrates, beyond possibility of contradiction, the truth and inspiration of God's Word, and effectually reconciles many apparent differences between its teachings and the light which geology, astronomy, and history afford us at the present day.

Methodism has a glorious history, and its hymnology has contributed not a little towards it. The New Hymnbook carries with it a host of reminiscences, and Mr. Christophers, in the volume just issued (4), brings them very graphically before us.

Cornwall has produced some of the brightest stars in the galaxy of Methodist pioneers, and the book before us (5) tells in a homely, but wonderfully life-like manner, the trials and struggles of some of its greatest heroes. The book is an inspiring one, and we would be glad to see in the present day more of the sterling piety which the sturdy Cornish folk so grandly exemplified in bygone days.

OUR NOTE BOOK.

WHILE the English Episcopate is increasing, the Roman Catholics have resolved on dividing their diocese of Southwark, making Portsmouth the head of the new see. A cathedral is to be erected in that town. In Scotland there are to be four new bishoprics, the seats of which will be Aberdeen, Glasgow, Lismore, and Moray, with an Archbishopric of St. Andrews.

The ninth anniversary of the Agricultural Hall (Islington) Sunday services was held in that building on Sunday afternoon, October 7. There was an attendance of three thousand and upwards. Addresses were given by the Revs. C. Billing (Episcopalian), Ebenezer Evans (Independent), J. Smith Spencer (Wesleyan), G. B. Sawday (Baptist), and Dr. Thain Davidson (Presbyterian), superintendent of the movement, who severally spoke of the good wrought by the services, and the success attending this effort to present the Gospel to non-churchgoers.

An enjoyable meeting was held on Monday evening, Oct. 8, at the hall of the Young Men's Christian Association, Aldersgate-street, on the occasion of the distribution of prizes to those members who had distinguished themselves in their studies during the past session. The Lord Mayor presided. Mr. Shipton sketched the work and aim of the institution,

which is still further widening in its scope, and two earnest and characteristic addresses were given by Principal Boulthby and Dr. Punshon.

The opening of theatres, music-halls, and other places of public resort for religious services has again commenced in the metropolis, and will continue during the winter months. Since the commencement of the movement the services have been attended by an aggregate of over three and a-half millions of people.

The Church Congress has held its session at Croydon. Several names which have figured rather prominently at previous congresses, have not appeared at the recent meetings. The Archbishop of Canterbury presided at the opening, and in the course of his address said, that the experience of the past sixteen years showed that congresses were valuable to the Church. No man should attend the Congress who was unwilling to give and take, for the Church of England had always had its various phases of thought, and its present condition showed how great was the necessity for toleration.

The Mansion House Indian Famine Fund, at the time of our going to press, approaches £400,000, the greater portion of which has been remitted. The sufferings of the natives in the famine-stricken district are heart-rending, and call loudly for further help and sacrifice on the part of those who can render aid. There are numerous British towns which have not, at least in their corporate capacity, done anything. It may well be asked, "Where is their public spirit?"

The autumn meetings of the Baptist Union of England and Wales, which commenced on Monday, October 8, at Newport, Monmouthshire, were attended by about a thousand ministers and delegates of the denomination. The Rev. Hugh Stowell Brown, of Liverpool, preached the opening sermon, the subject of which was, denominationalism and religious differences, in which Mr. Brown saw nothing to deplore, as they were the outcome of our mental constitution, and resulted in a healthy rivalry in Christian work.

The Sheffield School Board propose to establish a truant industrial school, about six miles from the town, where, in addition to the rudiments of education, employment will be given to the inmates in gardening, shoemaking, mending clothes, wood-chopping, etc. The children will be gathered from the streets, and only the neglected, but unconvicted, will be thus taken care of.

A Conference of Librarians has recently been held at the London Institution, and representatives from British and foreign libraries have taken part in the proceedings. Several useful papers were read, and discussion followed after each. The outcome will be the formation of a Library Association of the United Kingdom. A banquet was given by the Lord Mayor to the members of the conference.

The Rev. Francis Hogan, lately a priest of the Roman Catholic Church, has publicly renounced his connection with that Church, and has been preaching with great earnestness at the Exhibition Palace, Dublin.

A copy of a petition has been laid before the North Dublin Union for approval, praying that the surplus funds arising from the disestablishment of the Irish Church should be applied to the purposes of national education in Ireland. The petition, which, after some discussion, was adopted, will be forwarded to Parliament. It is expected that other Unions will also adopt the petition.

It is estimated that in London alone there are at least thirty thousand men employed on the Lord's Day. Of these the majority are engaged at the railway stations and in the omnibus and tramway traffic. A praiseworthy effort is being made in North London by Mr. Johnson, of Mildmay-road, to supply gratis a healthy, religious literature in place of the sensational Sunday newspaper which forms the only reading of many of the drivers, conductors, and other employes. On the North London Railway about 450 men are thus supplied.

The Synod of the United Presbyterian Church have purchased, at the cost of £26,700, the Edinburgh West-end Theatre, which was sold by public auction.

The Evangelical Alliance has held its sittings at Oxford. The attendance has been very good, the array of talent of a high order, and the spirit of the meetings has evinced the catholicity of the members present, embracing ministers and members of the leading evangelical denominations.

The Bishop of Manchester, speaking at Owens College, reviewed the recent address of Professor Tyndall on "Evolution," and in his concluding remarks said that the more we went back the more it seemed that the theory of evolution

(1) *The Light of Life*. By R. J. Ellis. (London: Elliot Stock.)
 (2) *Occasional Lectures*. By J. Sidney Tomkins. (London: Charing-cross Publishing Co. 1s. 6d.)
 (3) *A Young Man's Difficulties with his Bible*. By Dr. Faunce. (London: Hodder and Stoughton. 2s. 6d.)
 (4) *The New Methodist Hymnbook and its Writers*. By Rev. S. W. Christophers, M.A. (London: Hodder and Stoughton. 3s. 6d.)
 (5) *From out the Depths. A Story of Cornish Life*. Edited by Rev. S. W. Christophers, M.A. (London: Hodder and Stoughton. 3s. 6d.)