

Talks about Books.

In the last number of the Journal three volumes were received which had been sent to the Editor by the Fleming H. Revell Publishing Company of New York, Chicago and Toronto, although one of these was credited to Mr. Chapman, of Montreal, who had anticipated the publishers. A much larger number of books from the same enterprising firm now demands the Talker's attention. The first place among these rightly belongs to a handsome volume of 346 pages and 21 illustrations, entitled "From Far Formosa," by our Church's great missionary, Dr. George L. Mackay, the price of which is two dollars. It is really Dr. Mackay's book, as all the material was furnished by him, but it owes not a little to the editorial supervision and arrangement of the Rev. J. A. Macdonald, of St. Thomas, who has acquired a deserved reputation as a litterateur. In thirty-six chapters unequally grouped under six headings, the reader is introduced to the veteran missionary and his early career, to the natural features of Formosa the beautiful, to work among the Chinese of the island, to the same among the conquered aborigines of Malay origin, and to the mountain savages, and, finally, under the caption "At head quarters," there is presented in a simple unostentatious way a picture of the marvellous achievements of him who is probably the greatest evangelist of his day. It was meet that this book should be written, not only that Canadians and Christians all the world over should know what Dr. Mackay has done, so as to appreciate the man and pay the heart homage due to a heroic life spent for God and humanity, but more especially that the Church, energizing for the world's evangelization often amid much discouragement and pessimist prophecy, should through the perusal of it see reason to lift up the hands which hang down, and the feeble knees, and triumphantly to proclaim among Christians and heathen alike, "The Lord hath done great things!" All our young people should read this book to learn that there is a grander heroism than that of the battle-field, a more efficacious eloquence than that which stirs the world of politics, a more glorious self-denial than bare-footed mendicant monk ever practised. To read the volume is to admire the author's transparent honesty, his wonderful industry, his patient endurance, his unflagging zeal, his bold daring, his constant trust in God. To carp at such a man, at his work, at his book even, would be to call attention to sun spots and ignore the luminary. "From Far Formosa" displays a remarkable character, combining all the fiery enthusiasm of the Celt with the dogged perseverance of