

Christian Creeds and Confessions. A short account of the symbolical books of the churches and sects of Christendom, and of the doctrines dependent on them. By G. A. GUMBLICH, Ph.D., Professor; translated from the German by L. A. WHEATLEY. New York and Toronto: Funk & Wagnalls Company.

The title-page of this book sufficiently explains its character. All students of Church history will find it exceedingly helpful for giving in brief what you may look for elsewhere through bulky books.

Why Do You Not Believe? Words of instruction and encouragement for all who are seeking the Lord." By Rev. ANDREW MURRAY. Toronto: Fleming H. Revell Company; William Briggs. Price, 35 cents.

These words of loving counsel by a pastor to the younger members of his flock, will be found very helpful to persons seeking the Saviour. In a time of religious revival such as we are blessed with at present, such a book will be a wise gift from a teacher to earnest enquirers after salvation.

Illustrative Notes, 1895. A guide to the study of the Sunday-school lessons, with original and selected comments, methods of teaching, illustrative stories, practical applications, notes on Eastern life, library references, maps, tables, pictures, diagrams. By JESSE LYMAN HURLBUT and ROBERT REMINGTON DOHERTY. New York: Hunt & Eaton. Toronto: William Briggs. Price, \$1.25.

This, we think, decidedly the best help to the study of the lessons for the current year that we know. The illustrations are very numerous and very beautiful. The notes are carefully compiled by Drs. Hurlbut and Doherty, from the best authorities, 326 in number. With this and the BANNER the teacher will need no other apparatus for Sunday-school work.

A ZEALOUS Methodist of forty-four years standing, writes on a post-card from San Diego, California, on the borders of Mexico, as follows: "One of our grocers in San Francisco advertised some of his bacon as being from Mendocino County, and was fattened mostly on wind and dry leaves. That is the matter with our literature of to-day; it is too light and thin. It is *how to live* that our boys and girls are dying for. Our graveyards are full of the young because they were not taught how to live. Our prisons are full of even our educated young men, because there was no practical life taught them. To tell a child not to steal would border on the religion of God, and that must not be. So our nation is full of fraud, theft, petty thief criminals, bank robbers, train wreckers, drunkards, murderers," etc. We are glad to know that from personal observation that things are a great deal better in Canada in this respect than in California.

Opening and Closing Services.

FIRST QUARTER.

OPENING SERVICE.

- I. Silencè.
- II. Responsive Sentences. [Rom. 12, 10-15.]
Supt. Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love;
School. In honour preferring one another;
Supt. Not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord;
School. Rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation;
Supt. Continuing instant in prayer;
School. Distributing to the necessity of saints; giving to hospitality.
Supt. Bless them which persecute you; bless, and curse not.
School. Rejoice with them that do rejoice, and weep with them that weep.
- III. Singing.
- IV. The Ten Commandments, or the Apostles' Creed.
- V. Prayer, followed by the Lord's Prayer in concert.
- VI. Scripture Lesson.
- VII. Singing.

LESSON SERVICE.

- I. Class Study of the Lesson.
- II. Singing Lesson Hymn.
- III. Recitation of Title, Golden Text, Outline and Doctrinal Suggestion by the school in concert.
- IV. Review and Application of the Lesson by Pastor or Superintendent.
- V. Supplemental Lesson. [Special lessons in the Church Catechism may here be introduced.]
- VI. Announcements (especially of the Church service and week-evening prayer-meeting.)

CLOSING SERVICE.

- I. Singing.
- II. Responsive Sentences. [Psalm 119, 33, 34.]
Supt. Teach me, O Lord, the way of Thy statutes; and I shall keep it unto the end.
School. Give me understanding, and I shall keep Thy law; yea, I shall observe it with my whole heart.
- III. Dismissal.