NOTES ON RECENT BOOKS.

SIR S. RADHAKRISHNAN has become known as a philosopher versed in the lore both of the east and of the west. His Hibbert Lectures on "The Idealist View of Life" brought him into prominence in the west, and since then his writings have been the subject of frequent comment. In his *East and West in Religion* (George Allen & Unwin, Ltd., 4*s*. 6*d*. net) he has brought together five lectures of great interest to students of comparative religion and more especially to those interested in the inter-action of Eastern and Western thought. It is important that we should understand to-day how a highly cultured Hindu regards our Western religion and civilisation. The author of this book surveys the present position of religious thought and life, and comes to a number of important decisions regarding the future of Christianity especially in relation to the work of Missions. The extent of his reading and his application of it to the problems of the day are very striking. His reflections upon them are of special interest. For example, he says: "A few demagogues and adventurers with their control over the press and the radio lay down the law, and the masses unthinkingly march to their death. Our wills, our minds are not our own. A machine stronger than ourselves has made tools of us all. We are dressed in uniforms which enter the flesh. The silence of steel suppresses our sense of values. We are unable to look facts in the face." He expresses the yearning of both East and West when he says, for example: "Even if we have extensive agriculture and efficient transportation, and every one possesses his own aeroplane and radio set, if all disease is eradicated, if workmen receive doles and pensions and every one lives to a green old age, there will still be unsatisfied aspirations, wistful yearning." His treatment of revolution through suffering is specially thought provoking. The last lecture is an estimate of the work of Rabindranath Tagore. Although the subjects of these lectures are loosely connected, they give an excellent presentation of the outlook of Eastern thought.

Miss Maude Royden's *Here—And Hereafter* (Putnam, 7*s*. 6*d*. net) is a series of addresses dealing with Life Here, and Life Hereafter. Miss Maude has a special gift of dealing with those problems of everyday life which face most of us at some time or another during our career. "The Secret of Joy," for example, deals with common difficulties and points out the necessity of being in harmony with the Best. Her explanation of the Beatitude "Blessed are the Meek" falls into line with that given by Radhakrishnan, and shows how truly the people who enjoy true inward peace are the real possessors of the best in life. "Are We Missing Anything?" shows that we have to make a choice in life and that it is of the essence of life that we must miss something, and "Life's business

is just the terrible choice." "Beginning with Me" is an excellent lesson on personal responsibility. We might go through other chapters and point out the useful lessons that are given, but we have said sufficient to show the character of the book and the sort of help that it gives to those perplexed by the many problems of life as Christian teaching is applied to them.

The life and work of Mr. C. T. Studd has been an inspiration to many and a warm welcome will be given to the account of his career which has been written by Mr. Norman P. Grubb, and issued by the Religious Tract Society under the title *C. T. Studd, Cricketer and Pioneer* (3*s.* 6*d.* net). Mr. Alfred B. Buxton, who was his co-pioneer in the heart of Africa, contributes a Foreword in which he tells of the inspiration that Studd was to him by his heroic spirit and his complete devotion to the service of Christ. The story of the Cambridge Seven is well known and their offer of service in China which aroused so much enthusiasm in 1885. Studd had made a great reputation for himself as a cricketer, but when the call came he did not hesitate to give himself to the work, and both in China and Africa he proved a veritable apostle. His complete reliance on God was illustrated by many incidents in his eventful life and not least by his renunciation of his inherited wealth. The story is told in a chapter headed "He gives away a Fortune." "As coolly and deliberately as a business man invests in some 'gilt-edged' securities, as being both safe and yielding good interest, so C.T. invested in the Bank of Heaven." Those who remember the missions held in this country by Moody and Sankey will be interested to recall that Studd's work was indirectly the outcome of their work. Many other instances could be given of the wonderful influence exerted by these evangelists who so deeply stirred the country. Mr. Grubb has had the advantage in writing this life of consulting the letters which were preserved by Studd's mother and wife and he writes with whole-hearted sympathy with his subject. "He lived to glorify his Saviour. The object of this book is likewise to glorify Him as He is seen at work in and through this utterly surrendered life."

The centenary of the birth of Charles Haddon Spurgeon has been marked by the publication of a special record of his life by the Rev. C. H. Carlile, C.H., C.B.E. (The Religious Tract Society, 7*s.* 6*d.* net). The present generation who have never heard the great preacher can little realise the influence that he exerted at the Tabernacle in South London which was crowded Sunday by Sunday to hear him. Although his death occurred over forty years ago his memory is still treasured by those who owe much to his sermons, a new edition of which has recently been issued by Messrs. Marshall, Morgan & Scott. The Rev H. Tydeman Chilvers, the present Pastor of Spurgeon's Tabernacle, contributes a Foreword and bears his testimony to the continuance of the influence of his great predecessor. Dr. Carlile does not intend his work to be

merely a biographical record ; it is an attempt to interpret Spurgeon for our time and to give a picture of his manifold personality. There are a number of letters which have not hitherto been published and there is also a quantity of fresh information which will be welcomed by all who are interested in the life and work of one who was described in his day as the Prince of Preachers. Dr. Carlile numbers him among the four great evangelists of England, the others are Wycliffe, Wesley and Bunyan. He was a leader in his day and has left his mark on the religious life of the country, far beyond the limits of his own denomination which he served so well.

In *The Achievement of Nazareth*, the Rev. C. D. Hoste, M.A., presents " A study of the Incarnation of our Lord Jesus Christ " (Longmans, Green & Co., 6*s*. net). His purpose is indicated in his statement in regard to our Lord's life : " Its real object was nothing less than to impart to mankind a share in the great Achievement of Nazareth. The public ministry was to do for men what the thirty years of Nazareth had done for the Son of Man. They, like Him, were to die to self and to rise to a new life of Sonship of God. They, like Him, were to respond to the revelation of God as their Father, by themselves entering into the relationship of sons to Him." This theme is worked out in thirty-seven short chapters, of which twenty-seven under the heading " Then " follow out the events of our Lord's life and the remainder under the heading " Now " show the method of application to some of the problems of life to-day. There is much helpful thought and many useful suggestions in the treatment of the subject.

A Catholic Plea for Reunion is described on the cover as " A remarkable Book by a Roman Catholic Priest." On reading it we were doubtful as to the correctness of the statement that it was written by an R.C. priest. We doubted if any priest would dare to indulge in the criticism of his superiors which this book contains, and we felt that some reprimand awaited the author if he should prove to be a member of the Roman priesthood. We soon learnt that the author, who is described as " Father Jerome," was a member of the Jesuit Order and that on the discovery of his authorship, he was transferred from Liverpool to some place on the Continent. His main theme is that there is no need for a division between the Anglican Communion and the Church of Rome, and that some arrangement should be arrived at, by which the Church of England could be united to Rome as the Uniate Churches in the East are—each having its own distinctive rites. Some modifications in doctrine he believed might be necessary, but as the Anglo-Catholics already accept so many of the doctrines of the Church of Rome this ought not in his opinion to be a matter of any great difficulty. The Roman Church suffers from rigidity and too much discipline and it would be for its advantage to receive some of the spirit of freedom and initiative which characterises the English Church. We are not surprised that these

sentiments did not meet with the approval of his superiors, who will have nothing short of abject submission to the Pope and a complete repudiation of the errors of Protestantism. The book is interesting as showing the feelings of some of the rank and file of the Roman Communion. All is apparently not well in the one true Church!

Mr. G. Wilson Knight has already won for himself a place as an interpreter of some of the great masters of literature and especially of Shakespeare. In *The Christian Renaissance* (The Macmillan Company of Canada) he has extended his researches to a wide field and deals with various manifestations of the Prophetic imagination. He brings the writings of such authors as Shakespeare, Dante and Goethe into association with the New Testament. His desire is to consider the Bible in a somewhat unusual light. It is to be considered not merely as an historical narrative, but as presenting an art form for which analogy can be found in the writings of some of the great masters of poetic art. The highest poetic interpretation of life is essentially Christian, but so far there has not been an adequate effort to interpret in its full meaning the symbolism which presents the deepest truths of life. He seeks to lead his readers to a full understanding of all that is to be learned of these deeper truths. The result of his studies is a stimulating volume, and even if we cannot always adopt the terminology which he adopts, the reader will find food for useful reflection and will discover many new aspects of old truths and of the significance of the works of the great poets which are brought under review.

To the Modernist Series Dr. H. D. A. Major, Principal of Ripon Hall, contributes *The Church's Creeds and the Modern Man* (Skeffington & Sons, 3*s*. 6*d*. net). An interesting account is given of the origin and early history of the Creeds with an explanation of their anti-Pagan and anti-Gnostic expansions. Dr. Major then deals with the difficulties presented to the modern mind by some of the expressions used and urges that alternative forms should be permitted to meet the needs of those who require a modern statement of their faith. It is true that ancient modes of expression may not be altogether suitable for the twentieth century, but many doubt whether modern substitutes would be found serviceable and whether they might not also prove in a short time to be out of date. There is also the fear entertained by some that the Modernists wish to omit from our statements of belief some of those elements which they regard as essential to the full faith of the Church as it has been held from primitive times.

Mary of Nazareth, by Mary Borden (William Heinemann, Ltd., 7*s*. 6*d*. net), is an account of the various aspects of the relationship of His mother to our Lord, written after a careful study of all the available literature and with insight into the conditions of the life of the time and the social conditions of Palestine. The

New Testament narrative is accepted as a true record, and only minor incidents and characters are invented. She found herself obliged at the outset to take her stand on the controversy over the perpetual virginity of Mary that has agitated the minds of theologians for many centuries. She believes that our Lord's brethren were the children of Mary, and many will agree with the view that she has taken as the most adequate explanation of all the facts when they are regarded apart from preconceived ideas derived from ecclesiastical theories.

A London Journalist has written a most attractive appeal to those who do not attend Church in a small book, *Why go to Church?* (The Lutterworth Press, 1*s*. net). It follows on a previous appeal by the same author for the observance of Sunday, *Why Sunday?* which has had a wide and useful circulation. Mr. Isaac Foot, M.P., in a commendatory Preface depicts the change which re-instatement of Sunday worship would make in the lives of people, and indicates that these are the results at which the author aims. The journalist is Mr. Newman Watts and we heartily congratulate him on the effectiveness of his presentation of his case. His arguments are clear, they are convincingly expressed and they are driven home with a number of anecdotes that many advocates of Sunday worship will be glad to have at hand for their own use. He deals with all the usual excuses that are made for absence from Church and exposes the weakness of most of them. An earnest appeal is also made for the restoration of worship to its old place in the life of the people and an attractive picture is presented of the blessing that would assuredly accrue.

Students of Liturgiology will find *A Study of the Byzantine Liturgy*, by the Rev. Henry Holloway, M.A., B.D. (The Mitre Press, 8*s*. 6*d*. net), a useful guide to the study of the development of the modern Byzantine Liturgy. The services of the Eastern Church are marked by many elaborate ceremonies and they differ in many respects from those of the Western Church. Mr. Holloway brings together a mass of information on the historical development of these services and exhibits the various points in detail with quotations from the Greek sources.

Annals of an Indian Parish, by the Rev. Stephen Neill, M.A., Warden of the Diocesan Theological College, Tinevelly, some time Fellow of Trinity College, Cambridge (C.M.S., 1*s*. net), should be as widely read as possible for the admirable insight which it gives into the conditions in which much of the work of the Missionaries in India is carried on to-day. The details of the daily round are faithfully depicted, with all the anxieties which beset the path of the worker and all the conflicting interests that have to be considered. The disappointments are set out, but there are many compensations in the earnest Christian witness of the faithful. Mr. Neill has a human touch that gives his book a special fascination.

CHURCH BOOK ROOM NOTES.

7, WINE OFFICE COURT, LONDON, E.C.4.

Sunday School Lessons.—The Rev. Ll. E. L. Roberts, M.A., Vicar of St. Andrew's, Whitehall Park, has completely revised his series of *Sunday School Lessons on the Collects*, illustrated from the Epistles and Gospels, which was originally issued in quarterly parts in 1927. These lessons have been written to meet a felt need in Evangelical Church Sunday Schools—the need for lessons which are Spiritual, Scriptural, and Evangelical in their teaching and at the same time constructed along the lines of modern Sunday School methods. The lessons are prepared on the Collects, using the Epistle and Gospel to illustrate one definite thought or lesson from the Collect. They have the additional advantage of containing many missionary illustrations together with two lessons devoted directly to missionary instruction. The book will be published by the Church Book Room in a few weeks' time at 2*s*.

In response to many requests for a Lesson Book on the Church Catechism, the Book Room, in conjunction with "Home Words," has reprinted *Children of the Church : A Year's Lessons on the Catechism*, by the Rev. G. R. Balleine (2*s*.). This book is published with Church Art Stamps, price 4*s*. per book, sufficient for ten children for a year. Albums, 1*d*. each.

Other books by the Rev. G. R. Balleine still obtainable are : *Christianity in Action, Lessons from the Hymn Book, The Message of the Prayer Book* and *The Young Churchman* (2*s*. each).

For children from four to eight the following books are recommended : *Days in the Life of Christ*, by Marcella Whitaker (1*s*. 6*d*.) ; *Bible Tales for Little Folks* and *More Bible Tales for Little Folks*, by J. M. Macdougall Ferguson (1*s*. 6*d*.) ; *Stories for Little People* and *More Stories for Little People*, by Deaconesses Oakley and Ethel Luke (1*s*. 6*d*.) ; and *The Bible Zoo* : 52 Lessons on the Animals of the Bible, by W. A. Cunningham Craig (1*s*.). For adolescents, *The Complete Christian*, by the Rev. Cuthbert Cooper, Vicar of St. James's, Gloucester (2*s*.), is recommended. This book contains full Lesson Notes for a year's Bible Class, and the course touches the salient points of the Christian religion as taught by the formularies of the Church —the Bible, the Life of Christ, the Creeds and the Christian Life form the skeleton of the lessons.

The postage on any one of the above books would be 3*d*.

Book Racks.—Now that the holiday season has commenced may we remind clergy and others, who have Book Racks in their Church porches and Parish Halls, of the facilities provided by the Book Room for the purchase of pamphlets. A special discount of 25 per cent. is allowed on all manuals supplied for this purpose. A full list will be sent on application, but we may mention the following 2*d*. pamphlets which have been recently issued and which will be found very acceptable : *How to Say Your Prayers*, by the Rev. R. E. T. Bell, Vicar of St. John's, Reading, which is particularly suitable for boys and girls ; *Secret Prayer : A Great Reality*, by the Rev. Henry Wright ; and the following three pamphlets in the Church Booklet Series, price 1*d*. each : *Confirmation*, by the Bishop of Chelmsford, *Protestant and Catholic : Can We be Both ?* by Prebendary Eardley-Wilmot, and *Holy Baptism*, by Bishop H. C. G. Moule.

Nation and Church.—The Bishop of Norwich, in his speech at the Annual Meeting of the National Church League, referred to his Visitation in the diocese of Norwich held last year, and his reference there to the importance of this question. The Bishop's Charge has been reprinted under the title of *The Nation and the Nation's Worship: A Proposal*, which is published at 1*s*. (postage 1*d*.). This has now reached its second impression. Mention might also be made of the very useful book on the question of Reservation which the Bishop wrote some little time ago entitled *Holy Communion and Reservation*, price 1*s*. 6*d*. (postage 2*d*.). Another book by the Bishop is entitled *Disestablishment and the Prayer Book*, price 6*d*.

Roman Catholic Missions.—We have received several letters lately, drawing attention to Missions organised by Roman Catholic Communities, particularly in seaside resorts, and asking for suitable literature to circulate in the various districts. The following pamphlets can be recommended for distribution, and three pamphlets published by the Joint Board of Divinity in the Diocese of Liverpool for distribution in that diocese under the general title *Is Rome Right?*. These pamphlets are: (1) *Some Questions and Answers*, (2) *Marriage*, (3) *Infallibility and the Bible*. Other useful pamphlets are: *St. Peter and the Pope* and *Purgatory*, by Archdeacon Thorpe, and *Eighteen Reasons why I am not a Roman Catholic*. These are published at 1*d*. each.

The Church and Publicity.—The Rev. Cuthbert Cooper has published a well-illustrated and comprehensive book entitled *The Church and Publicity*, his object being to show how the methods of publicity employed in the business world may be adopted and used to bring home the message of religion. Mr. Cooper has words of wisdom for all, and there are very few incumbents who will not profit from reading his book, which will save them from wasting money in ineffective publicity, and guide them in utilising whatever funds they may have at their disposal for this purpose. The book is published at 2*s*. 6*d*. in paper cover, in cloth at 5*s*., postage 6*d*.

First Peter.—The Golden Lectures on 1 Peter by the Rev. C. M. Chavasse have just been issued at 9*d*. under the title of *A Letter from the Catacombs*. These six lectures make clear the devotional and concrete application of the epistle to the present time, and will be of great service to preachers who make a practice of expounding Bible books to their congregations, and the devotional treatment should prove exceptionally helpful to lay students.

The Keswick Convention.—Arrangements have been made to have a National Church League Stall at the Keswick Convention this year, July 14–21, and it is hoped that members of the League attending the Convention will make a point of visiting the Stall and making it known to their friends.