NOTES ON RECENT BOOKS.

THE Church in The Modern World is the title of the book containing the Addresses given at the Cromer Convention last June (S.P.C.K., 2*s.* 6*d.* net). The opening address is by the Archdeacon of Warwick. This is followed by the three addresses given at the morning assemblies. The first is by the Bishop of Chelmsford on " The Nature of the Church." The leading thought is of the Church as " A Fellowship which is the Body of Christ and His Instrument of Expression in the World." It is optimistic throughout. Canon Guy Rogers dealt with " The Church and the Clash of World Forces," and the leading thought is : " The Impact of the Church upon the World of National, Political, and Economic Forces." It is a general survey of democratic and other movements of the day in relation to Christianity. The third address by Prebendary Cash is on : " The Church and its Task To-day," the leading motive being : " To permeate with Christ's Spirit the whole life, individual and corporate, at home and abroad." It is a stirring appeal for Christian advance. The addresses at the evening assemblies were by the Rev. G. F. Allen on " Personal Experience," by the Bishop of Croydon on " Live in the Fellowship," by the Bishop of Knaresborough on " Taking up the Cross," and by the Rev. Canon Buchanan on " Receiving Power for Witness." These are all animated by the same purpose, to enable Christians of every class to undertake thoughtfully and prayerfully their duties as members of the Church. The Bible Readings were given, as usual, by Archdeacon Storr. His addresses are always an outstanding feature of the Cromer Convention. The three addresses this year were on " The Divine Ideal of Unity," " Fellowship in the Spirit," and " The Temple of the Lord."

There is probably no subject of greater interest to Christian people at the present time than the duty of the Church in regard to the social and moral condition of the world. There are many books written to show the responsibility of the Church for the redemption of our social system and bringing every aspect of life under the control of the Kingdom of God. The chief purpose of Canon F. R. Barry's recent work, *The Relevance of the Church,* is to show how the Christian community can carry out God's purpose of redeeming the world. A smaller book on a similar subject has been written by Canon C. E. Hudson. It is entitled *A Preface to a Christian Sociology* (George Allen & Unwin, 4*s.* 6*d.* net). This is a very clever book, and it is intended to represent the Anglo-Catholic solution of our problems. In his view, Christianity has been content in the past century to regard the function of religion to do the ambulance work. The Church has now to insist that the conditions themselves shall be changed, and that before society can act rightly it must get back to its natural environment which is God. He quotes the Regius Professor of Divinity at Oxford as saying that this implies that the

unity and sanctity of the Church must take precedence, not necessarily of direct Evangelisation, but certainly of any attempt to help the world in other ways. (This is evidently Canon Barry's introversion.) The book is written for those who are facing the fact that a large part of our civilisation is based on pagan assumptions and principles, and yet complain that the working out of these principles and practice does not produce the Fruit of the Spirit in human relationships. He conceives the Middle Ages to have represented the ideal Christian conditions, and that an intensive effort should be made to restate and adapt traditional Catholic principles to new conditions. Luther and Calvin seem to have been largely responsible for the failure of Christianity to deal adequately with social problems. There is, apparently, only one adequate basis for a Christian sociology, " The Church's instrument for the furtherance of God's purpose, is the Sacramental system."

The Mass is the drama of the perfect state, and every piece of Eucharistic action and symbolism bears eloquent witness to that truth. Indeed, there is and can be only one Eucharist, one Eternal Offering, in which Christ and His church are the Ministers, and our Eucharists are the translation into terms of time and space of that Eternal timeless Oblation. This is the Anglo-Catholic's solution of all our problems. Protestantism, of course, has evolved no philosophy of leisure. It is supposed to fail, even to grasp the meaning, of present conditions, much less to provide a solution for them. In spite of this, we are convinced that readers will gain an amount of valuable information from this book, and will at any rate be able to estimate the failure of all humanitarian and materialistic endeavours to solve our problems.

Ever since Sir George Adam Smith published his works on the Hebrew Prophets the attention of Bible Students has been turned to them with fresh interest and more complete understanding. His great achievement was to exhibit the Prophets in the light of the conditions of their own day, and to show how their various lessons could be most effectively applied to the conditions of the life of our own time. His volumes appeal specially to Clergy and Teachers, and there has always been room for the work of those who will explain in a concise way to the general reader the results of his extensive researches. The Rev. Henry Cook, M.A., has undertaken a task somewhat of this nature in his *The Prophets of the Bible* (Student Christian Movement Press, 5*s*. net). The author has preached many times on the Prophets, and has found them a constant source of pleasure and inspiration, and he has sought to pass on to others his own delight in their work. He has set the Prophets in their true historical background the better to bring out their distinctive messages. He also presents their personal characteristics and notes their literary form, and so he answers his question, " The Canonical Prophets. Who they were, and What they said." The opening chapter is a general introduction in which the modern view of prophecy is clearly set out. In Part I, the

Prophets of the pre-exilic period are considered. The characteristics represented by Amos, the representative of Justice and Judgment, and Hosea, the representative of the gospel of Love, are indicative of the method and treatment. He finds in Isaiah the statesmanship of Faith, and Jeremiah, Individualism in religion. To him, Jeremiah is the first of the canonical prophets. He is the prophet who sowed the seeds of universalism in religion, and placed institutionalism in its secondary position. In Part II, we have consideration of the exilic period with an interesting account of Ezekiel and the foundations of Judaism, and of the second Isaiah with the Evangel of the Exile. The third part gives the characteristics of the post-exilic period of Hebrew prophesy. A historical introduction gives the chief facts and prepares the way for an account of Haggai and the rebuilding of the Temple, the visions and dreams of Zechariah, the New Reformation represented by Malachi, and the work of the remaining prophets Obadiah, Joel, and Jonah. The author has succeeded within the compass of 214 pages in giving a vivid, clear, and comprehensible statement of the representatives of one of the most important phases of Jewish history. For students and teachers the book should prove a perfect boon.

The Roman Catholic Church takes elaborate pains to give publicity to any cases of Protestant Clergymen becoming Romanists. It is sometimes thought that the number of Romanists who join the Anglican Communion is very small. It is in reality much larger than many are aware. Mr. Albert Close has issued through the Protestant Truth Society a list of 662 Priests who have left the Church of Rome. We are told that over three thousand Priests have renounced Rome since A.D. 1800. Mr. Close has devoted considerable time to the collection of the material for this list.

It is the custom of the Church of Rome to assert that only ignorant and immoral Priests ever leave her fold. The names on Mr. Close's list amply disprove this statement. Going through the list we find many well-known names such as that of Father Thomas Connellan who bore such faithful witness in Ireland for so many years. Among the Spanish converts are Cabrera, afterwards Bishop of the Reformed Church, and Palomares, the story of whose conversion is a remarkable one, and whose work in Seville is well remembered to-day. There are in addition numbers of Clergymen who went over to Rome and afterwards returned. Such men as Alfred Fawkes, Arthur W. Hutton, and Arthur H. Galton. It is said that there are numbers of Roman Catholic Priests, both on the Continent and in this country, who would be willing to join the Church of England if the opportunity offered and the necessary financial support were obtainable.

The Rev. T. W. Pym, in *Our Personal Ministry* (S.C.M. Press, 4s. net), has written "A Book for the Clergy as Consultants and Advisers." The jacket of the volume says that Mr. Pym has made this subject peculiarly his own and that out of his wide experience

he offers guidance that will be welcomed by many Clergy and Ministers, " both by those who find this aspect of their work particularly difficult, and by those who feel they have not yet taken the fullest advantage of its opportunities." Evangelical Clergy may find some useful suggestions, but they will have to use the book with considerable care as Mr. Pym definitely regards Confession to a Priest as a normal part of his work, and gives minute details as to preparation for Confession, even as to the exact place where the penitents are to kneel. Two chapters are devoted to Preparation for Marriage. Mr. Pym has adopted the view that it is the duty of the Clergyman to speak to those about to be married on the relationship of married life. There are many still old-fashioned enough to believe that the doctor is the best person to consult on such matters. No doubt books of this kind are well intentioned, but we fear that in the desire to be psychologically correct their authors are disposed to go beyond what is necessary, and to lay down rules that are not always applicable. Those who wish to adopt the rôle of Confessors will doubtless find instruction for their purposes in this book.

West Africa was the first scene of the work of the C.M.S. It has continued to be the scene of some of the most wonderful romances of Missionary work. Miss Phyllis L. Garlick has written an account of the Mission under the title *With the C.M.S. in West Africa* (1s. net). Prebendary Cash contributes a Foreword. He asks : " Have we the imagination to grasp the big thing that the C.M.S. have done in West Africa ? " In less than a century this Mission field has given six Bishops to the Church from its African people. The Dark Continent has become a Land of Promise. A mixed community of slaves has become a Church : a people who once were cannibals are leading the way in African Evangelism. To-day, Sierra Leone and Nigeria have a self-supporting and self-governing Church which raises annually for Church purposes some £73,000. Miss Garlick describes the work of the C.M.S. in West Africa as " an epic of partnership." European Missionaries have joined with the Africans in building up the Church. The dominant figure is Crowther, the slave boy who became a Bishop. After an interesting account of his life, we are taken to Sierra Leone, the land of freed slaves, where C.M.S. has established the educational centre of Fourah Bay College where African Candidates for the Ministry are trained. Then an account is given of the Yoruba country where the Lagos book-shop plays a useful part in disseminating Christian literature. In 1933 12,412 Bibles, and 4,532 Prayer-books were sold. Northern Nigeria presents also many interesting features as Christianity there comes into contact with Islam. There are signs that the Moslem opposition is weakening. Equally interesting is the account of the work in the Niger diocese. The closing chapter on " The Adventure of Working with God " is a further call to partnership in a great work which is not of human devising but is rooted in the nature and purpose of God.

Martyrs of Jesus, by Edward T. Stoneham, is the story of "the Sussex Martyrs of the Reformation." It is issued by the Sussex Martyrs Commemoration Council in association with the Protestant Reformation Society with which Mr. Stoneham is connected. The Hon. Lancelot W. Joynson-Hicks contributes a Foreword in which he expresses gratitude to the author, "for the research and erudition which he has unstintingly given to place on record all the available facts and information concerning these great heroes of the past." He pays a tribute to the Martyrs who gave their lives and made their sacrifice that those who followed them might enjoy the benefits which by their very sacrifice they denied themselves. He quotes from his father, Lord Brentford's book, *The Prayer Book Crisis*: "The senseless bigotry and merciless cruelty of the wholesale persecution (of the Marian inquisition) defeated its own object, and left a detestation of the principles of a Church which could so forget the elementary teaching of the Gospel of Christ which endured for generations." The account refers to the various places in which the Martyrs suffered, such as Brighton, Steyning, Chichester, Lewes, and East Grinsted. Memorials have been erected in various places to commemorate these Martyrs. Some interesting quotations from the *Confessions and Trials of the Sussex Martyrs* are given, and an appeal is made that we should stand fast in the liberty wherewith Christ has made us free. The sufferings of the Martyrs for the Reformed Faith in this country are too often forgotten, and such a reminder of them as is given in this book is very valuable.

The Centenary of the Church Pastoral-Aid Society is stimulating fresh activities in the various departments of the Society's work. For many years the Recruits' Branch of the Society has been engaged in enlisting the support of young people in Home Missionary work among the children in poor and slum parishes. They already support sixteen workers in such parishes, and through the Fresh Air Fund provide in addition the means for taking some 6,000 each year to Camp for a week's holiday. As part of their Centenary effort they are hoping to support an additional Worker, and to this end a booklet, *In England—Now*, by Miss Constance E. Boyle, is issued (1*s*. net). It relates in an interesting way much of what has been already done, with details of some of the Camp work. The need for the work is as great as ever, and we trust that the Recruits will receive all the support which they require. Mr. Hugh Redwood, whose name is associated with accounts of work in poor districts, has written a Foreword, in which he expresses a doubt whether even the most generous supporters of such work are able to judge of the value of Camps and Holiday Centres as spiritual seed ground. He is convinced of the lasting results of such work, of which he has had considerable experience, and adds: "I do not think it possible for anyone to read these chapters without a desire to have some share in the work which they describe."

Dr. R. P. Wilder has devoted nearly fifty years to work amongst students in various parts of the world, and has exercised a very widespread influence. He has yielded to a request to publish some of his addresses, and they have been issued in booklet form by Simpkin Marshall, Ltd—*Christ and the Student World*. They deal with subjects of practical importance, such as the Fight for Character, Bible Study, Prayer, and Guidance. Their message is direct and is given with many interesting illustrations calculated to win the attention of students.

Canon C. V. Pilcher, D.D., Professor of the New Testament in Wycliffe College, Toronto, has written a small booklet on the Lord's Prayer as *The Prayer that teaches To Live* (S.P.C.K.: Paper, 1*s.*; cloth, 1*s.* 6*d.* net). He deals with the opening words of the prayer "as the portal to the Presence Chamber of the King," and then goes on to consider its contents under the headings—The Prayer of Love, of Surrender, of Co-operation, For the Present, For the Past, and For the Future. These are his six stars in the constellation of this supreme prayer, and he closes with a summing up of the whole spirit of the prayer.

The Rev. A. E. Hughes, M.A., Vicar of St. James, Clapham, paid a visit to the East in the early part of last year, and issues through Thynne & Co., Ltd., an account of his tour under the title *A Visit to Bible Lands* (9*d.*). In his party was Mr. Campion, a member of his congregation, who took a number of excellent photographs which are reproduced and give additional interest to the narrative. Brief notes are given on the various places visited, and special attention is paid to the scenes of our Lord's life and to places associated with Biblical history. Mr. Hughes had also the pleasure of visiting that wonderful place, Petra, which as he says "passes description." Mr. Hughes has the gift of presenting in a few words the main features of the many interesting places which he visited, and both those who have visited the Holy Land and those who have not had that privilege will find much to interest them in this short record of an interesting tour. He finds the religious condition of the Bible lands makes a striking appeal for greater Christian effort in Missionary work.

What is Life? by W. J. Still (Thynne & Co., Ltd., 3*s.* 6*d.* net). This book opens with an examination of the general aspect of life, and goes on to consider the religious aspect with various theories that have been put forward. Eastern beliefs are briefly considered, and Christianity's message is set out. The remainder of the book deals with special aspects of Christianity, and is illustrated by charts representing some of the theories advanced.

CHURCH BOOK ROOM NOTES.

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

N.C. Almanack, 1936.—Members are reminded that the National Church Almanack for 1936 is now ready, price 2*d.* It is hoped that the Almanack will be widely circulated this year. It contains valuable information on Church matters and is especially useful to members of Parochial Church Councils.

Eastward Position.—The Article by Bishop Knox entitled *The Meaning and Importance of the Position of the Celebrant in the Office of Administration of Holy Communion*, which appeared in the last number of THE CHURCHMAN, has been reprinted in pamphlet form, and can be obtained from the Book Room, price 3*d.*

Parables of Judgment.—Canon J. B. Lancelot, Vicar of St. James's, Birkdale, has just published through the Church Book Room *Parables of Judgment* (2*s.* 6*d.*). This is an attempt to emphasise the judicial element in fourteen of the Gospel parables. Canon Lancelot's writings are well known, and this book will make a particularly useful Christmas or New Year's gift. This time last year Canon Lancelot published through the Book Room a manual entitled *The Transfiguration* (1*s.* 6*d.*) and the second edition of his "Life" of *Francis James Chavasse* (3*s.* 6*d.*) was also published by us.

Sunday School Prizes.—A list of books suitable for gifts and Sunday School prizes has just been published as a guide to those who are unable to call at the Book Room and select books from the shelves. Copies will gladly be sent on application. The list contains a careful selection of over 2,000 books which can be recommended. A Vicar has just written as follows: "Thank you so much for such a lovely selection. Please file that list as I may trouble you again in my new Parish." A special feature is the publication of two attractive *Certificates of Merit* drawn from a special design, price 3*d.* and 6*d.* each. A new General Catalogue of publications of the League and list of books for theological students and others is in the press.

"Church and Life" Series.—New additions to this Series are *The Priesthood and the Laity*, by Canon A. W. Parsons, and *Tips and Tipsters*, by Canon H. Frazer. The first of this Series is entitled *The Evangelical as a Churchman* by the late Canon Dyson Hague, D.D., a large number of copies of which have been sold. Price 2*d.* or 1*s.* 6*d.* per dozen.

"Is it True?" Series.—The following additions to this series which we hope will be published before the end of the month are: *Is it True: That God Calls for Worship?* by the Rev. E. Hirst; *That the Bible is the Word of God?* by the Rev. I. Siviter; and *That the Gospel meets Human Needs?* by the Rev. J. Edmondson. These are issued at 1*d.* or 7*s.* per hundred.

Rome.—The Rev. C. C. Dobson, Vicar of St. Mary-in-the-Castle, Hastings, has issued a second edition of his pamphlet, *The Founding of the Church of Rome*, price 4*d.* The article originally appeared in THE CHURCHMAN for

October, 1932, and was subsequently issued in pamphlet form. The story Mr. Dobson seeks to unravel in his pamphlet reveals St. Paul as the true founder of the Church of Rome, and suggests that St. Peter arrived in Rome during the absence of St. Paul on his journey in the West, and found the Gentile Church presided over by Linus, the first Bishop of the Church already consecrated by St. Paul. Mr. Dobson quotes authorities, and has written an illuminating and interesting booklet.

A Reprint.—*My First Communion*, by the Rev. A. R. Runnels-Moss, price 1*s*., has been reprinted, with a commendatory notice by Bishop Knox. This will be the fourth edition of this useful little manual.

Parochial Church Councils.—As preparation is now necessary in view of the forthcoming Elections to Parochial Church Councils, readers are invited to write to the Church Book Room for particulars in connection with this matter. Special attention might be drawn to the *Enabling Act* with complete Text and Representation of Laity Measure 1929, with Notes and other Addenda, including Diocesan Conferences Regulation 1935, and the *Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure*, with complete Text, Introduction and Notes, the Introduction and Notes in each case being by Mr. Albert Mitchell. They are issued at 1*s*. each. Sample packet of the leaflets and forms published by the Church Book Room will be sent on receipt of 3*d*. post free.

The Tractarian Movement.—Bishop Knox's study of the Oxford Movement entitled *The Tractarian Movement 1833–1845* has been issued in a new cheap edition at 5*s*. No one could more effectively deal with the Tractarian Movement. The Bishop's great age gives him contacts with the Oxford of past days which lend interest and weight to his treatment of the subject; while his own learning and strength of conviction and character greatly enhance the value of his estimate and his criticism. The Bishop opens his subject with a useful chapter on the State Church under the Tudors, Stuarts, the Revolution Settlement and the Hanoverians.

Confirmation.—Attention is drawn to the Class Notes published by the Church Book Room for distribution to Confirmation candidates. These are perforated and the series are suitable for circulation before, during and after the classes commence. *Confirming and Being Confirmed*, by the Rev. T. W. Gilbert, D.D., will be a help to adult candidates for Confirmation who need a full and arresting account of the nature of the promise they are about to make. It will supplement the teaching which they have received in their classes. It is also a help to the clergyman in the preparation of his candidates. *The Christian Fellowship*, by the Rev. C. H. E. Freeman, contains twelve talks on preparation for Confirmation, and as stated by the Bishop of Worcester in his preface: "They are unusually valuable, and will enable not only inexperienced clergy, but those of some standing in the ministry, to give solid and well-illustrated teaching to their candidates." Both books are published at 1*s*. in paper cover, 1*s*. 6*d*. cloth (postage 2*d*.).

Dr. Griffith Thomas.—A reprint of Dr. Griffith Thomas's little manual, *The Essentials of Life*, has been published at 1*s*., with a Foreword by the Rev. J. Russell Howden, who states that he is sure it will be profitable to many that this little book of studies has now been given to the Church.