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Our Bookshelf.

THE RACE PROBLEM—THE GREAT UNITIES—NEW SPIRITUALISTIC EVIDENCE—AN ATTRACTIVE MEMOIR.

CHRISTIANITY AND THE RACE PROBLEM. J. H. Oldham, M.A. S.C.M., 7/6.

THIS excellent survey of a very vital problem was undertaken at the request of the United Council for Missionary Education, and is marked by the thoroughness and statesmanlike vision which we have come to associate with the work of J. H. Oldham. The author seeks to answer the question: Has the Christian Church any contribution to make to the racial problems of to-day? and, in arriving at his conclusion, he takes account of biological, anthropological, and especially moral factors. The fact of racial prejudice is recognized: "It is a sinister fact in the life of the world to-day. Racial hatred is being preached by white, yellow, brown and black alike." These prejudices, Mr. Oldham argues, are not at bottom racial, but moral, though they may become racial; and he instances the undoubted fact that young children seldom show any signs of race or colour prejudice. This idea of the moral basis of antagonism is kept well to the forefront throughout the survey, and after an informative survey of such problems as inter-marriage, population, immigration, political equality, empire, the author sets before us the Christian ideal. There is no short cut to the ideal. The racial problems, which to so great an extent are economic, political, and social, must be solved in a human fellowship in which the estranging differences of race are completely transcended. Particularly valuable is the chapter on "Practical Steps." The "Universal Community of the Loyal" is to be an actual present experience, and not merely an ideal for the remote future. We recommend this book as a very valuable contribution to the literature of the Kingdom, one of the most scientific arguments for Missionary work it has been our privilege to read.

THE GREAT UNITIES. John MacBeath, M.A. Carey Press, 2/-.

Mr. MacBeath has the gift of writing with a dignity commensurate with the dignity of his subject. One world, one gospel,

one kingdom, one imperative . . . these are the topics considered in this attractive book. From the first page onwards we are in the atmosphere of universalism: the all-embracing sweep of the Christian Evangel is here set out with a directness that is appealing, and with a wealth of illustration that is very illuminating. On missionary questions Mr. MacBeath speaks out of a wide knowledge, and this clearly thought-out presentation of the fundamentals of the missionary faith deserves a large circulation. The Carey Press is to be congratulated on the attractive form of the book.

THE HEART OF A FATHER. By A Well Known Public Man. Geo. Allen & Unwin, 2/- net.

This very human document is apparently the precursor of a fuller treatment of the same arresting theme . . . the possibility of communication from the Other Side. The story is so beautifully told that it is difficult to secure that detachment necessary for any critical estimate. The Well Known Public Man in question will probably be identified by the majority of the readers, and this should ensure a careful consideration of the narrative itself. In a very beautiful fashion we are introduced to the happiness of a father and mother upon the arrival of their son. Step by step we watch the boy's development, until the tragic day when the accident of drowning removes him from the happy circle. The anguish of father and mother, the father's presentiments, the restless quest for the assurance of the boy's continued life in the Spirit World . . . these are indicated. Then follows an account of the manner in which first communications, then a spirit-photograph of the boy were received, and the writer's conclusion, "This new experience has transformed our lives." The standing of the author, and the fact that he has always been suspicious of Spiritualism, will ensure a careful consideration of his experiences.

SALVAGE OF SOULS. Isabel M. Angus. Carey Press, 2/6 net.

An attractive memoir of Gertrude Morley Fletcher, and an appreciation of her work in India. The book is produced in the attractive fashion we now expect from the Carey Press, and will appeal to the increasing number of those who delight in missionary biography. Here are the great principles embodied in a life of rare charm and devotion.

F. T. L.

CHRISTIANITY AT THE CROSS ROADS. E. Y. Mullins, D.D., LL.D. Hodder & Stoughton, 7/6 net.

A new volume from the President of the Southern Baptist Seminary is always sure of a welcome. He feels that Christianity is being tempted to pay undue attention to material objects, and to be reconstructed with sole attention to causes. He warns against the road of science. He sees that inquiries as to origins and motives, the desire to simplify and unify, which in all ages have menaced Christianity, are again inviting down a wrong road; he warns against the road of philosophy. He points out that our religion is based upon definite facts, unusual, supernatural; and he meets the doubts of those who hesitate to accept the record, by appealing to experience. For religion has to do with persons, in personal contact with a Person. Neither must Christianity be reduced to science, or philosophy, nor must Christ be reduced to a mere excellent man with lofty ideals: the facts of personal experience show He is a regenerating power, the facts of history show He has regenerated under all known conditions. Therefore he pleads that Christianity go straight ahead, and not down any cross road.

W. T. W.