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Reviews of Books.

DR. HENSON'S SERMONS.

CHRISTIAN LIBERTY and other sermons, 1916-1917. Herbert Hensley Henson, D.D., Bishop of Hereford. London: *Macmillan & Co., Ltd.* 6s. net.

Many readers will turn from the preface to the appendix before perusing the sermons. In the former the author defends his appointment to the see of Hereford against the attacks of the E.C.U., and in the latter he prints the correspondence between the Bishop of London and himself on his engagement to preach in the City Temple, March 25, 1917. Dr. Henson is possessed of determination and courage: he does not tread the well-worn path of a majority: he displays originality and zeal. Such a man will always have opponents. But the opposition of the E.C.U., so ill-timed in its outbreak, and supported by such unfairness of quotation, was so full of obvious rancour that the Bishop would have done better to ignore it. The rejoinder to the Bishop of London is an ample vindication of the author's rights; but a personal note was unavoidable, and publication should have been suspended until the particular topic had become one of merely historical interest. The sermons too are disappointing. Twenty-three, preached in twenty months, are typical of the author's pulpit ministrations. But they are little more than the platitudes of a liberal mind, stated in pleasing diction. References to the fundamental doctrines of Christianity are scarce. Their popularity can be understood; but for the most part they strike us as opportunities lost.

AN UNPROVOKED ATTACK

THE MAKING OF GODS. By the Rev. Henry P. Denison, M.A. London: *Robert Scott.* 3s. 6d. net.

Prebendary Denison has his knife into Protestantism, which he has the temerity to describe as "Luther's somewhat immoral and fickle idol"! He must have almost exhausted his stock of adjectives in these pages. By way of example, he speaks of undenominationalism as "a feeble, fatuous and smirking idol." Under the heading "Degradation" he charges what he is pleased to call the "Lutheran revolt" with belittling the Incarnation, neglecting worship and lowering moral and spiritual standards. These are indeed grave charges. He asks in one place "What are the fruits of that especial quality that differentiates Protestantism from universal Christendom?" We remember that Dr. Hensley Henson argued in his *Godly Union and Concord* that Christianity had been as fruitful outside Episcopalian Churches as within them, and it will go hard with Mr. Denison to prove that this is not true. He will have to cultivate the fine art of treating the opinions of those from whom he differs with more respect—mere vituperation is unconvincing and irritating. There are surely enough idolatries about, against which Mr. Denison might have directed his attack without expending his energy and ability in attacking Protestantism and bringing charges against it which can easily be rebutted.

CHINESE MISSIONS.

A THOUSAND MILES OF MIRACLE IN CHINA. By Archibald E. Glover, M.A. (Oxon), of the China Inland Mission. With map and 36 photos. Glasgow: *Pickering & Inglis.* 2s. 6d. net.

In this, Mr. Glover's thrilling narrative—an uplifting record of God's delivering power—reaches its ninth edition, completing 17,000. If there are

really any, and it is said there are, persons who persist in asserting that missionaries have a "good time," we can only hope that this illuminating and uplifting volume will find its way into their hands. It constitutes a record that must be without parallel in the history of modern missions, and it forms, at the same time, a most valuable contribution to Chinese literature and history. Viewed as a personal narrative it reveals two devoted servants of God, whose faith never wavered, even in times of the most pathetic suffering. A cordial welcome to this reprint and the best wishes for its usefulness.

OTHER VOLUMES.

QUEENS: A BOOK FOR GIRLS ABOUT THEMSELVES. By Violet Trench. London: *Elliott Stock*. 1s. 6d. net.

Since the publication of Rev. George Everard's *Bright and Fair* we do not remember having seen such a delightful little book as this. In four chapters the authoress has very tactfully dealt with almost every conceivable aspect of the life of opening womanhood. As an illustration of the need for prayer and in connexion with some observations on *The Queen's Garden*, she quotes Mr. Rudyard Kipling's pleasing lines:—

Oh, Adam was a gardener, and God who made him sees
That half a proper gardener's work is done upon his knees,
So when your work is finished you can fold your hands and pray
For the Glory of the Garden that it may not pass away!
And the Glory of the Garden it shall never pass away.

Just the book to put into the hands of a young girl leaving school or about to be confirmed. We very warmly commend it.

THE PACIFIST LIE. By Captain E. J. Solano. London: *John Murray*. 1s. 6d. net.

A vigorous statement of the case for sailors and soldiers against the conscientious objectors. The unfortunate thing is that books like this are too seldom read by the persons whose questions they answer and whose position they challenge. Captain Solano sees how the "red sacrament of war" plays its awful and splendid part in the ascent of man, but with something of the inspiration of a prophet he perceives, too, a time when "the highest human ideals, including peace among nations, will be realized." He shows that the position of the conscientious objector is absolutely indefensible, even in the light of such principles as those of democratic government. The reader will find in these pages many arguments wherewith he can assail the citadel of the pacifist foe.

LIFE BY HIS DEATH. By the Rev. Bernard M. Hancock. London: *S.P.C.K.* 1s. net.

A little book of practical meditations on the Cross of Jesus, based upon the Office for the Visitation of the Sick, and the author expresses, in a *Note* the hope that it may be used not only by the clergy, but also by the laity—"not only the sick, but also the whole." We think, after reading these meditations through, that probably Mr. Hancock's "hope" will be realized: it would certainly seem to be justifiable.

LIFE LINES. By the Rev. R. A. Lash, M.A. London: *S.P.C.K.* 1s. net.

The Chaplain of the *Arethusa* has given us, out of the ripeness of his experience among sailors, a small manual specially arranged for their use. It is well got up and is eminently suited to its purpose. It consists of but 31 pages and is thus easily carried in the pocket.