

AMONG THE RELIGIOUS BOOKS

MANY college students expect the philosophy department to enlighten them on the principal facts and theories of religion and the natural sciences and on the practical question whether a liberally educated person today should identify himself with a religious organization. "A Student's Philosophy of Religion" (Macmillan) by Dr. William Kelly Wright proposes to furnish to these undergraduates and to readers in general the necessary data, facts and arguments to work out their own philosophy of religion. The author arouses a deep and genuine interest in the study of the psychology and philosophy of religion and in the comparison of contemporary religions. The book is in a popular and readable form.

"Facing the Crisis" (Doran) is a personal and unofficial study of present day social and religious problems by Sherwood Eddy. Its views are not those of any organization or denomination. The book is divided into two parts: the first deals with the more personal problems of religious belief, such as the problem of the person of Jesus, the problem of miracles and of Biblical inspiration; the second with the great social and industrial issues of our time, such as the ethics of war, the industrial unrest, and the race question.

Roger W. Babson has prepared a book of studies of the industrial community as the new frontier of the church in "New Tasks for Old Churches" (Revell). His suggestions for the solution of today's problems are clear cut and courageous. He has little sympathy with the arguments of self-interest of business men or with the wornout methods of the church in industrial communities. His sole interest is in the physical, social, and

spiritual salvation of the men, women, and children in these busy centres.

The revival sermons delivered by Gipsy Smith during his twentieth visit to America are to be found in a volume called "Real Religion" (Doran). Gipsy Smith is undoubtedly the most unique figure in the whole realm of evangelistic effort. These sermons are marvels of direct, forceful, heartfelt eloquence on the greatest of themes, with no resort to slang or sensationalism.

"The Church in America" (Macmillan) aims to interpret the real meaning and ultimate purpose of the every day work of the church. The author, Dr. William Adams Brown of Union Theological Seminary, is peculiarly qualified to handle this subject. His interdenominational experience and breadth of general training make him write in a statesmanlike manner of present conditions and the immediate future of the church in America.

In "Comrades in the Great Cause" (Association Press) Ozora S. Davis proves himself to be a Bible student of a very high order. He presents an exhaustive study of Paul's epistle to the Philippians which is especially timely now, when Christian comradeship means more than ever before in practical living.

The Cole Lectures delivered before Vanderbilt University in 1922 by Dr. Harry Emerson Fosdick are gathered together under the title, "Christianity and Progress" (Revell). The Christian of today is confronted with a new, dynamic, mobile, and progressive world, and in these lectures Dr. Fosdick subjects the situation to a fearless and searching analysis, and concludes: "To take the modern world into one's own mind, and then achieve an idea of God, great enough to en-

compass it until with the little gods gone and the great God come, life is full of the knowledge of Him, as the waters cover the sea, is alike the duty and privilege of the Christian leadership of today."

The Very Rev. Alexis M. Lepicier, O.S.M. presents in his "The Fairest Flower of Paradise" (Benziger) a book of considerations on the Litany of the Blessed Virgin. Each consideration is divided into three sections of moderate length, to which is added a suitable example followed by a prayer. This arrangement strongly recommends the book for daily spiritual reading and meditation.

In "Our Reasonable Faith" (Presbyterian Board) Park Hays Miller gives some thoughts on the Christian faith and the Christian life. The book deals with four subjects which vitally concern the Christian: the Bible, in which the revelation of God to men has been preserved; the Commandments as the laws of conduct; great truths revealed in the Scriptures and proved by experience; and the church, through which the truth has been preserved, by which the truth is taught, and in connection with which the Christian finds spiritual nurture and a field for service.

"God's Better Thing" (Judson Press) by Albert D. Belden is, as the title page indicates, a collection of essays of concern and conviction. The author's conviction is that the evangelical faith is seriously cramped by a purely individualistic application, and that it must find its flowering and fruitage in the Gospel of the Kingdom of God on earth before it can adequately satisfy the spiritual needs of mankind and give just proof of itself. Mr. Belden puts forth his ideas in a clear, thought-kindling and heart-quickenning manner.

"The Values Everlasting" (Benziger) is a book of brief and various papers, offered by its author, the Rev. Edward F. Garesché, S.J., as a rem-

edy for the worldliness of modern life. The style is brisk and cheery, making it an interesting book to occupy the leisure hour and to lift the thoughts toward things eternal.

To read "Rock-Breakers" (Judson Press) by P. H. J. Lerrigo, M.D., is like taking a trip to the Congo with a traveler most delightfully human in sympathies and keenly able to see and to say. There is a tang of lively interest in Congo Land and Congo people and the chapters follow one another in real charm and worth. The book has an appeal not only for students of Christian missions but also for the lover of nature and of folks.

"The Cross and the Garden" (Doran) is a first volume of sermons by the famous Australian chaplain, now minister at the City Temple, London, Dr. F. W. Norwood. The ordinary methods of interpreting the message of Christianity, to quote the author, "lack something of vitality". Dr. Norwood strives to preach "the Everlasting Gospel with eyes and heart wide open to the facts of life". This book is direct, real, and human.

A volume of scholarly distinction, elegant artistry, and practical utility is "The Hymns of the Breviary and Missal" (Benziger), edited with Introduction and Notes by Rev. Matthew Britt, O.S.B., and with a Preface by the Rt. Rev. Msgr. Hugh T. Henry. It is the first attempt to present in English the hymns of the Breviary and Missal. The Latin text of the hymns is given, with a literal prose translation, notes on the Latin text, the best obtainable metrical translation, and a statement concerning the author, metre, liturgical use, and the number of translations of each hymn. There are also a historical introduction, brief biographies of authors and translators, a bibliography, and complete Latin and English indexes.

—E. E. F.