The Christian Ministry.*

To-day's newspaper effaces yesterday's news, and the busy world may have forgotten what it read about these lectures when they were delivered. But assuredly the students who heard them remember them, and the Twentieth Century will be well underway before they cease to have a practical lesson for thoughtful men. They are frank in their admissions, wise in their suggestions, many-sided, and full of energy. True, they are not so compact as the author's lectures on 'Individualism,' and the stock of thoughts is not so fresh. One criticism would be that there are too many of them. The same ideas put into six or eight lectures, instead of twelve, would have been more effective. If this had been attended by the modification of some parts in which the Episcopal tends to dominate the Christian, the book would have lost nothing of permanent value. One might wish, too, for a little more generous recognition of the real worth to the Church of all the critical discussions of the day in the sphere of theology, religion and morals. But the words here uttered are for the most part what the words of a discreet and watchful bishop, intent on high

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* The Christian Ministry at the Close of the Nineteenth Century. By Rt. Rev. A. N. Littlejohn, D.D., LL.D., Bishop of Long Island. (The Bishop Paddock Lectures, 1884.) New York: Thomas Whittaker.

practical ends, knowing the work, and knowing the men he talks to, ought to be. Everyone who sees what is going on is aware that the Protestant Episcopal Church is advancing with rapid strides to an influence and efficiency it has never yet known. With progress goes responsibility. Bishop Littlejohn sees this; his words are timely, and ought to bear much fruit. Above all, they are hopeful. It occurs to us to say that the binding of the book is rather painfully blue,—but this is no index of the tone of the lectures.

Recent Fiction

IT IS pleasant to find Flora L. Shaw, whose stories of children have been such a success, turning her pen toward fiction for older readers, and giving us so good a novel as 'Colonel Cheswick's Campaign' (Roberts). The story is clever and unique, the 'campaign' being the Colonel's skilful manœuvres in making his daughter love the man he wishes her to marry. The incidents are merely those liable to occur in ordinary English society; but the conversations and events are entertaining as well as natural, and the heroine is a great success.——THE hesitating reader who balances the striking and startling title of 'The Strange Adventures of Captain Dangerous' (who was a soldier, pirate, merchant, spy, slave, etc.), by George Augustus Sala (Franklin Square Library), against the very dull aspect of the very long and dry paragraphs, will be likely in the end to feel that the weight of evidence lies with the paragraphs rather than with the title.——'IN Shallow Waters,' by Annie Armitt (Harper's Handy Series), is a well-written story of the martyrdom of a man who married a weak woman and who had a weak daughter. There is a wholesale moral, and a well-considered study, in this vivid picture of the cruelty and danger of mere shallowness.——'OLD Fulkerson's Clerk,' by Mrs. J. H. Walworth (Cassell's Rainbow Series), is a sensational story whose characteristics may perhaps please lovers of sensation.

'THE CAPTAIN OF THE JANIZARIES,' by James M. Ludlow (Dodd, Mead & Co.), is one of the picturesque historical romances whose picturesqueness relieves the history to such an extent that the well-blended elements leave the general impression merely of romance. The story is stirring, vivid, and impressive, less as a whole whose plot is ingenious, than as a collection of episodes, each brilliantly written and so suggestive as to interest the reader apart from the mere story. The author has a rare command of language, and the book would be worth reading if only for the series of striking pictures it presents. It is a tale of 'local color,' and we have so few really picturesque writers, that the book might be welcomed even without its contribution to historical information.——'A DESPERATE CHANCE,' by Lieutenant J. D. Jerrold Kelley (Charles Scribner's Sons), fulfils its object of entertaining the reader, though perhaps not exactly in the way the author intended. The reader anxious for a hearty laugh cannot do better than to secure this tremendous tragedy for the purpose. Most people will feel repaid for struggling through it by the discovery of one simile alone—where the red sealing-wax on an important letter is said to have 'flamed like clots of blood gushed from an overflowing heart.'

THE short stories by Rose Terry Cooke reprinted from the magazines under the title of 'The Sphinx's Children' (Ticknor), are well worth reading over again and owning in this compact form. The author is a favorite magazine writer, and certainly possesses in an unusual degree the gift of combining brevity, originality, truth, fiction, humor, pathos, and moral. The stories show great versatility, and an enviable power of sympathetic insight not always united to such keen sense of the ridiculous.—— 'NO. XIII,' by Emma Marshall (Cassell), is not a detective story, but an historical romance of the Third Century. It is not a very valuable contribution either to romance or to history. The student will rub his eyes with some surprise, and the reader of fiction will rub his with some sleepiness.

'A WOMAN'S TRIUMPH' (A. H. Andrews & Co.) is a very short story in pamphlet form, recording incidents founded on fact and certainly pathetic as a true story, but hardly original or powerful enough to seem of much importance as fiction.—— 'A DAUGHTER OF FIFE,' by Amelia E. Barr (Dodd, Mead & Co.), is an interesting story built on a somewhat familiar basis. The old, old story of an aristocratic lover who prefers a fisher maiden to his cousin, the heiress, is made by Mrs. Barr's ever-skilful pen to seem quite unhackneyed and delightful. The only fault to be found with the book is a certain lack of wisdom in literary sanction of the mésalliance which the marriage of Maud Muller and the Judge could hardly fail to be.