

## AMONG THE RELIGIOUS BOOKS

A DEEPLY moving record of those Christian poems that have made men glad to live and unafraid to die can be found in "The Hymn as Literature" (Century). Jeremiah Bascom Reeves, Ph.D., the author, presents a fascinating and discriminating study. He traces the progress of religious song from King David, through early church history, through the dark ages, through the England of the Puritans and down to the England and the new world of today. The immortal song poems are linked up with the times and places which produced them. Students and general readers will find here a mine of absorbing information.

"Days of Delusion" (Houghton Mifflin) by Clara Endicott Sears is a distinct contribution to the history of that emotional period rife with transcendentalism, with religious upheavals and revivals, a period teeming with great, well balanced minds, and lesser unbalanced ones—the years of 1833 to 1844. It deals especially with William Miller, the visionary and self appointed prophet, whose prediction that the end of the world was at hand threw thousands of men and women into a state of uncontrollable hysteria. It is a thoroughly interesting and dramatic account of an extraordinary period in American history.

An attempt at correcting a good deal of misinformation that is current today is "Where Evolution and Religion Meet" (Macmillan) by John M. Coulter, head of the department of botany, and Merle C. Coulter, assistant professor of plant genetics, University of Chicago. The authors do not seek to make converts to a belief in the doctrine of evolution. The information they present is trustworthy, and so stated that the reader may draw his own conclusions.

"Religious Lyrics of the Fourteenth Century" (Oxford) is a collection of representative examples of the conventional types of devotional verse of the period. Edited by Carleton Brown, the texts offered in this volume illustrate the important contribution of this century to the development of the English lyric. Much of the material published has hitherto been unprinted, and many of the texts are taken from scattered and often inaccessible publications.

The purpose in writing "The Influence of the Bible" (Revell), states Thomas Tiplady, author, is "to draw the attention of gifted young men to the Bible as the supreme guide to leadership in public life, literature and oratory". Mr. Tiplady calls upon historians, authors, and orators to bring testimony. He deals also with the creative power of the Bible, how it shaped and molded the Anglo-Saxon race anew, and through it sent forth a messenger of light to the four corners of the earth. There is a chapter on the Scriptures as the master light of our knowledge of human nature. This is really an exceptional book.

Henry Hallam Saunderson writes a glowing work on the high adventure of Christianity in "The Power of an Endless Life" (Century). It is an effective call to faith and a plea for a return to the radiance of early and simple Christianity. Too much of modern Christianity, the author believes, is grey and formal. He tells us how we can take our religion more simply and how we can make it irradiate existence. His book is to be commended and recommended.

"The Evolution of an Endeavorer" (Christian Endeavor World) is an

autobiography by William Shaw, who for nearly forty years has been closely connected with the stupendous growth of Christian Endeavor. Told in vivid and picturesque style, it is an inspiring story of the rise of a man from factory boy to general secretary of a worldwide organization — his school life; his experiences in the mill and the store; his struggle for an education; his call to Christian Endeavor service; his relations and associates in the growth of the movement; the great conventions; and personal experiences at home and abroad.

Moved by the great injustice to children through the failure of our schools to teach them the fundamentals of character looking to the best citizenship and the higher ideals of Americanism, Homer S. Bodley undertook the task of solving the problem. In "The Fourth 'R'" (Revell) he points out some of the higher ideals of life which should be taught without infringing upon any creed or sect. "The Fourth 'R'", Righteousness or Right Relations, he contends should have as prominent a place in the school curriculum as the "Three 'R's'".

A volume of intense interest, especially at this time of significant and worldwide religious, political, and social changes, is "God's World-Program" (Doran) by Reverend Grant Stroh. It is an absorbing story of the objective, scope, and consummation of God's program for the race, as indicated in the Scriptures and in human history and progress. The basis of the discussion is that things do not just happen, but centre in the wisdom, power, and personality of God; and that the creation, nature, and possibilities of man indicate a definite goal toward which all the events of history are irresistibly moving.

—E. E. F.