

# AMONG THE RELIGIOUS BOOKS

**A**LAYMAN'S idea of God is "Man and the Two Worlds" (Harper). William Frederick Dix and Randall Salisbury are the joint authors. Both men, lifelong friends, are actively engaged in business. They have long taken deep interest in the study and discussion of philosophic and religious subjects. Their solution of the riddle of life is presented in clear and simple language, not with any intention of destroying the teachings of existing religions, but as they have come to understand it. The authors do not ask anyone to accept their ideas and have no hopes of introducing a new theology. They wish merely to present the findings of their own conception of the mysteries of life and in them to find spiritual comfort and intellectual understanding.

"Old Testament History" (Scribner) by Frank K. Sanders aims to lay a foundation for an illuminating and constructive understanding of the Old Testament as a whole. Technical details are omitted, leaving only the essential material for profitable discussion. This is the first volume of a new series of concise handbooks known as "Life and Religion Series". Each number in the series will be designed to furnish introductory reading for a detailed study of the Bible and of related subjects. It is adapted for use as a text for college classes, Bible classes, and teachers' training classes.

A book full of practical help for the man who stands in the pulpit is "The Art of Preaching" (Macmillan) by Dean Charles R. Brown of the Divinity School, Yale University. It contains the forty-eighth series of Lyman Beecher lectures on preaching. The significance, basis, content, measure, delivery, lighter elements, setting, and soul of the sermon are taken up suc-

cessively. To the active minister these lectures bring suggestions that will be invaluable in the preparation and delivery of effective sermons, "the most influential single service the minister is privileged to render in the whole round of the week's activity".

A vital and brilliant book on the meaning of life is "The Reality of Jesus" (Doran) by J. H. Chambers Macaulay. The author finds the reality of life in the reality of Jesus. He says, "The Mind of Christ is the greatest fact with which the mind of man can come in contact. Multitudes today are adrift, uncertain, unhappy, and inefficient in life, for lack of the reality of faith. Jesus recreates belief in God and belief in men. He gives to life its joy, its duty, and its destiny. Within the shadow of the world's restlessness lurks the Reality of Jesus, and the demand for a religion adequate to life is the conscious or unconscious quest of men for the Reality of God today."

"Herald of Christ, Louis Bourdaloue, S. J." (Schwartz, Kirwin and Fauss) by Dr. John C. Reville, S. J. is a portrait of the great Jesuit preacher of the age of Louis XIV. It is a fascinating, colorful story of Louis Bourdaloue, "King of Preachers and Preacher of Kings", who for thirty-four years preached before kings and princes with a dignity and power that left its impress indelibly upon their hearts. Historically important is its picture of the French preacher amid the splendor of the Court of Louis XIV, meeting with statesmen, soldiers, saints, sinners, orators, poets, and artists. The book has distinct value for the student of French literature or history, the priest, theological students, and all interested in the eloquence and mechanics of the spoken word.

A book that adequately and sympathetically meets the growing demand among young people for intellectual sanction for Christian life and service is "Scientific Christian Thinking for Young People" (Doran). In a prefatory note the author, Howard Agnew Johnston, D. D., says, "New light on several scientific questions has been discovered in these first years of the twentieth century. In this new light some of the theories which dominated the thinking world for the last third of the last century are proved no longer tenable. This new light points in the direction of God's relation to men and the world as being more direct and immediate than was inferred when the evolution theories were supposed to be correct."

"I Believe in God and in Evolution" (Lippincott) by W. W. Keen, M. D. is dedicated to all sincere seekers after truth who revere the Bible as the Word of God: who revere Nature as

the Work of God; and who believe that rightly interpreted they must surely agree. The facts of evolution are proved to harmonize with the teachings of Scripture. Dr. Keen shows clearly a distinction between Darwinism and evolution, two things wholly independent of each other. It is an excellent work for religious students perplexed with the problem of the origin of man.

"Japan in Transition" (Doran) is a vivid and authoritative work on present day conditions in Japan by Loretta L. Shaw. It considers the political and social changes of a rapidly growing nation from the standpoint of the Christian missionary. In a masterly way the passing of Japan through a spiritual conflict is depicted, showing how vital it is that the whole life of the country be permeated with the Christian religion.

Ever since Christianity presented itself for acceptance by mankind, ques-

tions of Christology have held a foremost place in religious research and discussion. "The Boyhood Consciousness of Christ" (Macmillan) is an attempt by Rev. P. J. Temple, S. T. L. to present a critical examination of the Gospel reference to the consciousness of the twelve year old Christ. The words spoken by the Boy Jesus are treated in association with the meagre existing historical data to see if they present a basis for the theory of His consciousness. The volume, with its extensive bibliography on the subject, is an important contribution to scientific religious research.

"Church Street" (Westminster) by Jean Carter Cochran is a collection of delightful stories of life in an American village. Miss Cochran pictures with gentle humor the charming beauty of home life, neighbors, the church and village characteristics. A wholesome and refreshing "Main Street". Several of the stories are reprinted

from "The Outlook", THE BOOKMAN, and "The Westminster Home Department Quarterly".

Rev. J. W. G. Ward, widely known preacher, lecturer, and author both in England and America, has written a series of spiritual interpretations of masterpieces in English literature. "Messages from Master Minds" (Doran) furnishes excellent material for the literary sermon, and is a valued addition to the literature of spiritual voices in English literature. Brief biographical sketches, discourses on the spiritual values, and quotations are given of such writers as Shakespeare, Tennyson, Longfellow, Browning, Emerson, Stevenson, Arnold and Ruskin.

In the twenty-three sermons under the collective title "The Gospel of the Sovereignty" (Doran) the Rev. J. D. Jones, D. D. gives an intellectual treatment of a variety of subjects in an admirable style. The discourses on modern topics and the needs of the individual are especially apt and appealing.

"Alcuin" (Kenedy) by E. M. Wilmot-Buxton is one of a series of books called "Catholic Thought and Thinkers", edited by C. C. Martindale, S. J. The purpose of the series is to give readers in each volume a portrayal of some notable Catholic thinker, an exposition of what he thought, and a statement of his contribution to the history of ideas in the world and to Christian civilization in particular. The present volume deals with Alcuin (735-804 A. D.), the scholar and genius of the eighth century, and adviser and teacher of Charlemagne. It gives a clear and interesting account of the methods of education used by this man who was responsible for the high ideal of mental culture in a most material period of the world's history. It is a special contribution to the moral and intellectual understanding of the world of the eighth century.

—E. E. F.