

Friends and Current Literature

WITH the support of the Young Friends' Movement of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting of Fifteenth and Race Streets, a series of public addresses has been commenced to be known as "The William Penn Lectures."

The Executive Committee has been happy in its choice of Professor Elbert Russell, of the Johns Hopkins University, for the inaugural lecture, which, under the title of *The Christian Life*, was given in Race Street Meeting House on 13th of Fifth Month, 1916.

The key-note may be found in the words, "God, the Soul, and their Mutual Recognition." The conception of God as taught by Jesus Christ, His "loving accessibility," resulting in "fellowship between man and God" made possible through man's "capacity to perceive the Divine Presence," are clearly brought out in opposition to the relationship as established through priestcraft and sacrament.

The cobwebs of theology are swept away under the practical experience of first-hand knowledge of God, and the spiritual understanding is penetrated by the clear sounding voice and undimmed light of the Spirit.

The intimate touch with God thus established, there follows "the ethical direction of the Christian life," differentiating the Christian religion from all others. The ideals of conduct are determined by right conception of the character of God, leading us to examine our lives and our social and national standards, with the desire to bring them into harmony with God's design for the uplift of the race individually and collectively.

The Spirit of Christianity, an Essay on the Christian Hypothesis, by Frederic Seebohm (Longmans, 1s. 3d. net).

In an introduction "To the Reader" by Hugh Exton Seebohm, of Hitchin, we are informed that a few copies of this essay were printed in 1876 "for private use only." At that date it would have been too strong meat for any but a few advanced thinkers. Its issue is timely, amidst the present stress and strain when men are questioning the reality of eternal verities as hitherto accepted. Men need the kernel of Christianity without its husk, however attractive the husk may appear, and in Frederic Seebohm's reverent search after truth and fearless disregard of mere traditional religion, they will find their need met.

ISAAC SHARP.

* No. 372 of an anthology made by Robert Bridges, poet laureate, in 1915, entitled *The Spirit of Man*, is the well-known swan-song of James Nayler, "There is a spirit which I feel." It is headed "Christian Charity." Two slight alterations have been made, as noted in the Index. Nayler is styled, simply, "A Quaker Saint," and the passage "seems to rely on oral tradition."

*—not in D.

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The Journal of Uria Brown (1769-) is passing through the volumes of the *Maryland Historical Magazine* for 1915 and 1916. Uria was a Friend, born in Pennsylvania.¹ He moved south to Baltimore, Maryland, in 1821, and was first a surveyor and conveyancer and then became the first teacher in McKinn's school, conducted on the Lancasterian system in that city. (Introduction by Kirk Brown of Baltimore.) The Journal describes fully his travel through Pennsylvania, Virginia, Ohio and parts of Maryland, in 1816.

In *The Ulverston News* of August 5th and 12th, there are full accounts of presentations to our member, William Richardson Nash, J.P., who has been a Poor Law Guardian for fifty-one years. Lord Richard Cavendish presided, and presented W. R. Nash with his portrait and also a valuable barograph or recording barometer.

* The March number of the *Bulletin of the Indiana State Library* contains brief biographical data concerning "The Governors of Indiana," by our friend, Harlow Lindley, of Earlham College, Ind.

* J. Rendel Harris has articles on "The Origin of the Prologue to St. John's Gospel, in *The Expository Times*," for August, etc.

* Among books listed as "Works throwing light upon the origin and meaning of Christianity," in the Appendix to *The Origin and Meaning of Christianity*, by Gilbert T. Sadler, M.A., LL.B. (London: Daniel, 7½ by 5, pp. 222, 5s. net), are Rendel Harris's "Odes of Solomon," "publications of the Society of Friends on William Penn, Quakers in Ireland, etc.," Isaac Penington's "Somewhat Spoken" and "lives of . . . Fox," "Hodgkin's Fellowship of Silence."

* In E. V. Lucas's new collection of essays, *Cloud and Silver* (London: Methuen, 7 by 4½, pp. 233, 5s. net), there are references to Friends' relief work in France in the section "The Marne after the Battle."

The Two Swords is the title of "a dialogue on the Christian conscience and the War," by Herbert G. Wood (Birmingham: Cornish, pp. 46, 9d. net).

In *The Nineteenth Century* for September there is an article by Wilson Crewdson on "French Heroes and German Barbarians: Impressions amongst the French Wounded," and in *First Aid and the St. John Ambulance Gazette*, for August, the same Friend writes on "Radiography at the Front."

The life of *Joshua Rowntree* [1844-1915], by his niece, S. Elizabeth Robson (London: Allen, 7½ by 5, pp. 190, 3s. 6d. net), has been reissued in a "special Adult School edition," with portrait on cover, price one shilling.

¹ Descended from William Brown, of Wellingborough, England, from whom our Friend, Kirk Brown, of Baltimore, is also descended.