

Quaker Psychical Experiences

Psychical Experiences of Quaker Ministers (Published by F.H.S., 1933, pp. vi, 42, 2s.) was to have been John William Graham's Presidential address to the Society at its annual meeting last spring. After his death, with the help of Margaret Graham, the unfinished manuscript which he left was prepared for the press and is now issued as Supplement 18 to this *Journal*. In it he collects instances of a variety of psychical experiences in the lives of between thirty and forty Friends. The majority of instances are from America in the eighteenth century. He would doubtless have collected others which are known and have added more in the way of comment and conclusions, but it has been thought better to print the paper almost as he left it than to attempt any kind of completion. Francis E. Pollard has kindly contributed an introduction. As it is, it forms a valuable collection of cases illustrating an interesting aspect of Quaker history with the notes as to sources practically complete. It is to be hoped all members will order a copy when paying their subscription for the coming year.

A New Life of William Penn

William Penn, by C. E. Vulliamy (Geoffrey Bles, 1933, 8vo, pp.xii, 304, 10s. 6d.). Mr. Vulliamy writes with the detachment which marks the true biographer. He is candid, approaching this subject with no Quaker bias, and certainly his portrait is less favourable than we have been accustomed to. He shows, however, a real sympathy with Penn's ideals and if his criticism is at times unsparing it is nowhere malicious or cynical. A happy style makes the book delightful reading. The careful picture of Penn himself is improved by passages devoted to public affairs in connection with various episodes. He finds Penn's greatness not in his writings, nor in his spiritual services to Quakerism, or his disastrous dabblings in politics at Court, but in his conception and founding of Pennsylvania and in the idealism which led him to it, and to his generous treatment of the Indians.

Mr. Vulliamy misdates the first meeting of Penn with George Fox by placing it in 1673 at the latter's return from America. Actually Penn saw Fox off to America from the Thames in 1671, and it is difficult to believe they did not meet in the spring of 1668, when both were in London and Penn had just joined Friends.

Full of information as it is, detailed references to the sources, especially for the more important quotations, would have enhanced the value of the book for students. There is a bibliography of some ninety titles at the end.

A Patriarch in Virginia

"In Virginia near James's River I met with an aged Friend whose name was William Porter. He was ninety-two years of age, and had then a daughter two years old. He had upwards of 70 children, grandchildren and great grandchildren. He lived to see the above daughter married, and died at 107."

Journal of Thomas Chalkley, Phila. 1749, 22.