

Current Literature and Additions to the Library

Recent books and old books recently acquired are noticed here for their bearing on Quakerism past or present. Unless there is a note to the contrary a copy will be found in the Library of the Society of Friends in London.

Many of the books in the Library may be borrowed by Friends, and other applicants if recommended by a Friend. Apply to the Librarian, Friends House, Euston Road, London, N.W.1.

Stocks of books regarding Friends are to be found for sale at :

Friends' Book Centre, Euston Road, London, N.W.1.

Friends' Book Store, 302 Arch Street, Philadelphia, Pa.

Friends' Book and Supply House, 101 South 8th Street, Richmond, Ind.

William Penn: A Topical Biography. By William I. Hull. (Oxford University Press, 362 pp., 21s.) This latest life of the founder of Pennsylvania is built on an unusual plan. We have many books attempting to combine the many episodes and the diverse strains of character into a complete picture of the man and his work. Here however the subject is deliberately treated piecemeal. The available material on each of thirty topics is collected and we are shown Penn in relation to his ancestors, his two wives, their respective families, his own education and early travels, his Irish experience, his conversion, Penn as an author, preacher, organizer, colonizer, courtier, alleged Jesuit and Jacobite, with many other aspects. The resulting book inevitably lacks somewhat in continuity for the reader, but is an admirable work of reference for the enquirer with a particular aspect of Penn in view. The book is well produced, and generously illustrated. It would have added materially to the reader's ease in referring to it if the chapter titles instead of the general title, had been printed on the recto of each leaf.

Eight First Biographies of William Penn in Seven Languages and Seven Lands. By the same author as the preceding, this is the third of his Swarthmore College Monographs (\$2.00). It offers, without access to the originals which are in some cases difficult to find, some account of the first essays in the subject in Dutch, Latin, German, French, Spanish and Italian, besides English. As was to be expected those writers more separated from Penn by the gulf of time, place or outlook have depended more upon the stock sources of information

and achieved less, some indeed not more than a conventional epitome. There are numerous illustrations of title pages, portraits, etc.

The Learned Blacksmith: The Letters and Journals of Elihu Burritt. By Merle Curti. (New York, 1937, 241 pp., \$3.00.) This volume prints a large number of letters which have with few exceptions not been published before. They are arranged in chapters dealing with Burritt's self education, his work for world peace, ocean penny postage, the cause of the slaves, and assisted emigration from England to America. Not himself a member of our society, he was constantly in contact with Friends on both sides of the Atlantic. In these letters the man speaks for himself, but they are not a substitute for a life which it is to be hoped Professor Curti will give us.

Friend Anthony Benezet. By George S. Brookes. (Philadelphia, 1937, 516 pp., \$5.00 and Oxford Press, 22s. 6d.) There have been lives of Benezet before, though none for forty years, and no previous work has been so thoroughly prepared by the collection and examination of all the available source material. The present large volume was inspired by the reading of Amelia Mott Gunmere's edition of John Woolman's *Journal and Works*. Dr. Brookes devotes over two hundred pages to biography and about three hundred to printing letters and other papers by Benezet, most of which have never been used before. Benezet is generally known as a Philadelphia schoolmaster. In fact he taught for forty years, besides engaging continuously in writing for his wide circle of correspondents and for the press. He began to teach in 1739 in Germantown after the failure of a business proposal. He began a school for negroes in 1750 and a school was built for negro children in Philadelphia in 1770. But even more than their education he cared for their freedom, and his correspondence informed and kindled the minds of many against slavery at a time when outside our own society there was very little concern expressed.

He distributed his own pamphlets far and wide and it was the reading of Benezet's *Some Historical Account of Guinea* that set Thomas Clarkson thinking about the slave trade and eventually led to his devoting himself to the cause of the slaves. Peace, Temperance, the treatment of the Indians and of the poor were all causes he actively supported. This full and readable biography gives us a good picture of Benezet. It is well illustrated and fully documented.

We are indebted to Charles A. Hawley of Iowa State University for sending a copy of his article on *Correspondence Between John Greenleaf Whittier and Iowa*, reprinted from the *Iowa Journal of*

History and Politics, April, 1937. Iowa Friends at Salem, one of the earliest Quaker settlements west of the Mississippi, founded in 1868 a college which they named Whittier after the anti-slavery writer. It was hatred of slavery which had driven their fathers from the Carolinas. At its foundation and later after a disastrous fire the poet took a keen interest in its welfare.

A History of the Parish of Penn. By J. Gilbert Jenkins. (St. Catherine Press, 4to, 210 pp., 7s. 6d.) This volume is a well constructed and interestingly written history, based at first hand upon the sources.

The author examines the theory that William Penn the Quaker was connected in family with the Penns of Penn. His conclusion is that Penn may have known with certainty of his connection with these Penns; he believed it, but upon what his belief was based we cannot now say. Surviving parochial and other records at no point show any connection between the Penns of Minety (Glos.) and those of Penn (Bucks.).

Some Problems of Life. By Rufus M. Jones, Nashville Tenn., 1937, 214 pp. These eight papers were delivered as the Cole Lectures at Vanderbilt University. They discuss values, freedom, and personality in the light of the author's own experience and learning and set forth his faith in "the illimitable resources of man's spiritual estate".

Thomas E. Drake has written a brief history of Friends in the state of Minnesota under the title *Quakers in Minnesota*, published in the magazine of the Minnesota Historical Society, September, 1937, 20 pp. and separately reprinted. It covers the migration of the first Friends there in 1851 from North Carolina, shows the influences making for the establishment of the pastoral system, the part played by Friends in the affairs of the state, and brings the story down to the present day.

The Burtts : A Lincolnshire Quaker Family 1500-1900. By Mary Bowen Burt. (Hull; Burt Bros., 1937, 200 pp.) Their story compiled from meeting records and family papers is closely interwoven with the history of Quakerism from its beginnings, in Brant Broughton and district. The volume is well written, well illustrated and well printed in each case by members of the Burt family. It is an interesting account of Quaker life for more than two centuries in a country district. It has seven family charts and its value would have been further increased by an index.

A Bibliography of John Greenleaf Whittier. By T. Franklin Currier. (Harvard Press, 1937, 693 pp.) Mr. Currier's exhaustive bibliography includes the innumerable broadside and leaflet printings of Whittier's poems, his communications to newspapers other than those he was connected with editorially. There is also a section on books and articles about Whittier. Others describe his editorial work for newspapers, the editions and leaflets chronologically, the poems alphabetically with each printing noted. This work will remain the authoritative description of Whittier's published work.

A Day-Book of Counsel and Comfort from the Epistles of George Fox. Compiled by L. V. Hodgkin. (London: MacMillan, 1937, 314 pp.)

The Name is Living: The Life and Teachings of Isaac Penington. By M. Whitcomb Hess, (Chicago: Willet Clark, 1936, pp. 151).

These two volumes place before the modern reader some of the finest passages in the teachings of Fox and Penington. Fox has lived for us too much by his *Journal* alone; his *Epistles* numbering over four hundred, were published in 1698 in a folio volume of 557 pages, which has never been reprinted in full. The present volume contains a passage for every day in the year and thereby offers an acquaintance with his pastoral teachings in a short piece at a time. It is to be hoped they will also make many seek the original edition, which contains much of value that, necessarily, had to be omitted from the present volume.

Mrs. Whitcomb Hess offers us a study of Penington, opening with a brief life mainly taken from the testimonies that precede his collected *Works*, 1681. The chapters on his teaching collect quotations together under seven subjects; introductory and explanatory passages by the compiler open each chapter. She emphasizes the close relationship of mind between Penington and Plotinus and quotes also from his works. The general neglect of Penington is to-day partly due to an obscurity of style but is partly a measure of our lack of the type of experience his writings try to portray. The present volume opens acquaintance with him by removing many of the obstacles to studying him in a complete edition.

Divinity and Philosophy Dissected and Set Forth by a Mad Man. (Amsterdam: 1644, 62 pp.) Dr. Theodor Sippell has very kindly presented to the Library a copy of this rare mystical tract.

George Fox. By William Howitt. (Typescript, 149 pp.) The library is indebted to Dorothy Cadbury for the gift of a typescript

copy of this unfinished and unpublished study of George Fox. The original MS. is at Woodbrooke.

Pennsylvania : 1681-1756, The State without an army. By E. Dingwall and E. A. Heard. (London : Daniel, 1937, 134 pp.) Is a brief account of the ideals of Penn's "Holy Experiment", its successes and increasing obstacles down to the withdrawal of Friends from the government.

Guide to the Administrative Records of the Society of Friends in Bristol, 1667-1869. By Russell S. Mortimer. (Unpublished, typescript, 1937, 48 pp.) This thesis, presented for the London University Diploma of Librarianship, provides a complete schedule, with accurate descriptions and a brief introduction, of one hundred and thirty volumes of minute books and other MSS. preserved at the Friars Meeting House, Bristol. The author has kindly presented a copy to the Library.

Nottinghamshire in the Civil War. By Alfred C. Wood, M.A., D.Phil. (Oxford Press, 1937, pp. x, 240, 4 maps.) 15s. This history of the county during the period 1640-1660 is based upon first-hand research into sources, and covers not only the military events but also the constitutional and religious changes of the time. There is a general survey of the character of Nottinghamshire and its people in 1640 and a chapter at the end describes the changes in organized religious life preceeding and during the war, and following the restoration. Appendices give lists of Nottinghamshire members of Parliament, Royalists, Roundheads, and ejected clergy. A sketch of early Quakerism in the county occupies several pages, mainly drawn from sources well known to Quaker historians. It is to be hoped that fresh light may yet be some day cast on George Fox's early sojourn in the county and on "one Hincks, a Ranter" who is alleged to have been his teacher, by Henry Pickworth in *A True and Faithful Relation . . . of the Quakers*, 1736, p. 3.