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Short Notes on Recent Books.

[Insertion under this heading neither precludes nor guarantees a further notice.]

AMONG recent War Books we must give the first place to *Turkey, Greece and the Great Powers*, by G. F. Abbott (Robert Scott, 7s. 6d. net). Described as a study in friendship and hate, it gives a masterly survey of the history of the Eastern question and explains with admirable lucidity the present position. The writer is quite unsparing in his exposition of what he considers the blunders of English diplomacy, both in regard to Turkey and to Greece. Whatever view is taken of his conclusions it will be agreed that this is a most remarkable book and a contribution of real value to the proper understanding of the position in the East.—*Under the French Flag*, by M. Macdonald (Robert Scott, 3s. 6d. net), tells the story of a Britisher in the French Army. The narrative is one of absorbing interest, full of incident, bright, and fresh and sparkling with humour. It is good for us to have a picture of the everyday life of the men in the army of our gallant Ally and Mr. Macdonald's picture is a charming one.—*Serbia to Kut*, by Canon J. T. Parfit (Hunter & Longhurst, Ltd, 1s. net), gives an account of the war in Bible lands, alike informing and interesting. We see from this narrative how very much England and the Allies owe to General Townshend and his 15,000 heroes. They "saved at a critical moment the British Empire from a most formidable menace."—*The Experiences of a Temporary C.F.*, by the Rev. F. Humphrey (Hunter & Longhurst, Ltd., 2s. net), has a value all its own. The writer is a Nonconformist chaplain, but "out there" these denominational differences count for little. The volume abounds in incidents, some gay, some grave, and others with a pathos which brings moisture to the eye and a lump in the throat.—*Bound in Khaki*, by Lillian Doyle (Elliot Stock, 2s. net), is a dainty little volume of war poems and songs appealing specially to Irish regiments. Sir Ignatius O'Brien contributes the Introduction, and the book is dedicated to Mr. John Redmond. The writer has caught the soldiers' lilt most happily and successfully.

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The Bishop of Worcester's visit to the Triennial Convention of the Episcopal Church of America as the representative of the English Church was a notable event in the history of both Churches, and we are glad to have as a memorial of his visit *American Addresses* (Longmans, Green & Co., 1s. 6d. net), a little volume of some of the sermons and speeches delivered at various places. The report of the speeches at the Pilgrims' Luncheon is especially interesting at the present time as showing the closeness of the relationship which exists between the two countries.

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The story of the Keswick Convention is well known, and we are glad to have now the Rev. Norman C. Macfarlane's volume *Scotland's Keswick* (Marshall Brothers, Ltd., 2s. 6d. net) full, as it is, of delightful sketches and reminiscences. The personal note runs all through these 200 pages, and gives a distinct charm to the narrative. We are introduced to the Chairmen, Conveners and Speakers—all men widely honoured in "Keswick" circles, yet the author has something fresh and inspiring to tell of each one. The note on Prebendary Webb-Peploe that "he is fitted for being the Bishop of all the Denominations" pleases us much. The more solid part of the book, dealing with the central teaching of Keswick, is well done, and, the

glimpse we get of the house-parties is very pleasing. This interesting volume should have many friends.

Of books of a more general character *Letters of the Rev. H. H. Jeaffreson*, edited by the Rev. C. E. Lambert (Longmans, Green & Co., 4s. 6d. net), will be valued by a wide circle. The Bishop of Winchester in a foreword speaks of the reverence and regard in which he held Mr. Jeaffreson. "The combination in him of thinker, priest, observer, friend, and even in some sense man of the world was very distinctive and very rare." The "Letters" breathe the spirit of sympathy and will be found really helpful for the discipline of life. They are written, however, from the viewpoint of the distinct High Churchman.—We are glad of the opportunity of saying a word for the impressive story, *Freely Forgiven*, by J. B. Horton and Kate Drew, because of the opportunity it gives us of commending most heartily the general work of Drummond's Tract Depot, Stirling, which publishes it. The immense influence of this agency in circulating books, pamphlets and tracts portraying the truths of the old Gospel is something to be thankful for.—The latest issue of "Lippincott's Home Manuals," *Clothing for Women*, by Laura I. Baldt, B.S. (J. B. Lippincott Coy., 8s. 6d. net), will be valued in the home.—*Nature Talks for Primary Workers*, by May Coley (H. R. Allenson, Ltd., 1s. net), has about it the rich aroma of garden flowers, and children will be deeply interested.—Of Nelson's re-issues we have received *Shadow Bells* by William Black, *The Country House* by John Galsworthy, and *The Black Bag* by Louis J. Vance—9d. each; and *Lives of the Hunted* by E. T. Seton, and *Episodes of the French Revolution in Brittany* by G. Lenotre—1s. 3d. each.

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Quite the best monthly for those desirous of keeping abreast of the times is *The Review of Reviews*. We have known and valued this magazine from the time it was first started by the late Mr. W. T. Stead, but at no period of its existence has it been better done than it is to-day. The February number is of special interest, with articles on "The Hidden Plague," "The Truth about our Country's Food," and other current topics. The Notes on "The Progress of the World" and "The Progress of the War" are most illuminating. "The Leading Articles in the Reviews" and "The Reviews Reviewed" cover a wide range. "Foreign Opinions on the War" and "Current History in Caricature" are unique features. The magazine costs one shilling net; it is worth three times the amount.

BUSINESS.

The general meeting of the shareholders of the London City and Midland Bank, Limited, was held at the Cannon Street Hotel, London, E.C., on Friday, January 26.

Sir Edward H. Holden, Bart., who presided, remarked upon the general financial position of the country, and insisted upon the importance of the new War Loan being made a great success. [This it apparently has been, although at the time of writing the exact figures are not known.] Sir Edward Holden went on to comment on the leading figures of the London City and Midland Bank's balance-sheet and profit and loss account, remarking that their net profits for the year ending December 31 last amounted to £1,636,968, and that they were paying their usual dividend of 18 per cent. for the year, leaving to be carried forward £129,941, which, with the amount brought forward from last year of £113,597, made a total of £243,538 to be carried forward to the next account.