

and not at all of devotional relevance and suitability. The result, for those who had any sense of humour, was an excitation of feelings the reverse of worshipful, and an exposure of the service at the outset to the risk of being spiritually a failure. Such dangers emphasise the necessity of the minister not surrendering his function of choice to anyone, since it is his responsibility alone to think of the spiritual proprieties at every point, of the relation of one part with another, and of the relation of all the parts to the whole. They emphasise also the need for thinking out the whole service in advance, so that it may not be endangered by thrusting into it at the eleventh hour an extraneous element of so disturbing a kind.

(3) The third principle that should be kept in mind is that of *progression*. There should be movement in a service. It ought not to be a series of variations on a single theme. There is much to be said for restricting a sermon to the presentation and enforcement of a single idea ; but when the one idea dominates the entire service, governing the choice of all the praise, the service is bound to suffer serious detriment. Stringing all the beads on the sermonic thread tends to achieve monotony in a series of acts which ought to be so designed as to reflect in some degree the variousness of the many-coloured wisdom and grace of God. Dangers of such a kind will be obviated if the service is not allowed to become static in idea, but moves forward in a realisable progress, from point to point, in a clearly articulated order, advancing steadily as to a goal.

Quite probably, the people who participate in a service thus shaped into consistency will have no idea of the care spent upon arranging it, or of the felicitousness with which the parts are composed into a satisfying whole ; but the thoughtful and spiritually-minded among them will know that they have been well guided in the ordering of a service which has enabled them to offer of their best in their worship of God.

MILLAR PATRICK.

Reviews.

THE BIBLE FOR TO-DAY. Edited by John Stirling. (London : Oxford University Press).

The Bible is still a " best seller " and this magnificent edition, one of the best yet issued, is certain to find wide acceptance. The text, which is that of the 1611 version, is not broken but is printed as an ordinary piece of literature. However useful the chapter and verse system may be for some purposes, it may obscure the meaning of the original, of which, it need hardly be said, it forms no part. The object of the producers of " The Bible for To-day " is to show that the old Book is not simply the record of what God has done in the past ; but that it has a message for every age, especially for the people of to-day.

The illustrations bring the modern world into close contact with the old and remind us, sometimes rather forcibly, that the Bible is for all lands and for all time. As a gift Bible it would be difficult if not impossible to get a better one than this. It may be had in three styles—Blue Buckram at 21s, Oxford India Paper, 30s, and a De Luxe Edition at 42s.

THE REFORMATION IN ENGLAND, by F. M. Powicke. (London : Oxford University Press, 6/-).

This is a solid and satisfying book. Originally it formed part of " European Civilisation, its Origin and Development," which was published in 1936 ; but at the expressed desire of many who had seen it in that work it is now issued separately. Dr Powicke does not attempt to cover the whole field of the English Reformation, but deals with the changes

which took place in our " neighbour kirk " in its progress from its mediaeval form to what it became in the days of Queen Elizabeth. In his treatment of the subject he leaves little to be desired. He corrects many of the one-sided views which friends and opponents of the Reformation have put forward, and has given us a work which will hold its own in historical circles.

DAILY PRAYER. Compiled by Eric Milner White, D.S.O., Dean of York, and G. W. Briggs, Canon of Worcester. Oxford University Press. (London : Humphrey Milford, 5/-).

This delightful and devotional manual is intended for use in public, private, and school worship, and will, we are sure, be widely welcomed. It is a veritable treasure house of prayers taken from many and varied sources. These prayers are grouped around special subjects, which adds greatly to the convenience of those using the book. The concluding portion, entitled " Prayers of Famous Men and Women," contains materials written by or associated with great divines like Augustine, Thomas Aquinas, and Calvin ; kings such as Henry VI., Edward VI., and Charles I. ; Margaret, wife of Malcolm Canmore, " Bloody " Mary, and Mary Queen of Scots, as well as by great literary men such as Shakespeare, Milton, Johnson, and R. L. Stevenson. Altogether this is an exceedingly interesting and helpful book.

A SHORT METHOD FOR PULPIT AND SERVICES, by J. Ramsay McCallum, M.A., Rector of St Leonard's Church, Colchester. (London : James Clarke & Co., Ltd., 2/6).

In this little work the writer stresses the relation of elocution to personality, giving particular attention to the technique for the successful conduct of public worship and religious teaching. While Mr Ramsay McCallum is a minister of the Church of England, the book is not meant for Anglicans only. Indeed, we think that it will prove more valuable to those whose duty it is to conduct divine service without a prescribed prayer book.

ENGLISH CHURCH CRAFTSMANSHIP, by F. H. Crossley, F.S.A. (London : B. T. Batsford, Ltd., 8/6).

It is good to know that in these days when so many sanctuaries are being laid waste, the firm of Batsford continues to ensure that many of these treasures shall not be allowed to perish without memorial. This volume will maintain the reputation that the Batsford Books have gained in literary and ecclesiastical circles, and will prove a welcome addition to their ever growing feast of good things. Here the craftsmanship which in earlier days built and adorned so many churches and chapels in England is dealt with in a masterly manner. A wide range is shown of the many forms in which good craftsmen executed their work. Designer, builder, carver, sculptor, glazier, painter, smith, and others have the results of their labours illustrated by beautiful photographs and described in felicitous language. This volume is one from which many will draw inspiration and instruction. We cordially commend it.

KEEP THOU MY SOUL. By the Rev. E. C. Messenger, Ph.D. (London : Sands & Co., 5/-).

This is an interesting and instructive little book by a well-known Roman Catholic writer. It deals with the votive masses of the Roman Church, in time of war, in peace, for a happy death, and for the dead. It is devotional rather than controversial, and much good will be found in its pages.

WILLIAM McMILLAN,