

Two Notable Books on Scottish Reformed Church Worship

THE WORSHIP OF THE SCOTTISH REFORMED CHURCH, 1550-1638: The Hastie Lectures in the University of Glasgow, 1930. By William M'Millan, M.A., Ph.D., F.S.A.Scot., with Foreword by Professor A. Main, D.D., D.Litt. (London: James Clarke & Co. Ltd., 1931. Pp. 383. Price 10s. 6d. net.)

DR M'MILLAN has already earned distinction by his researches into the history and development of Scottish worship, and the present volume will greatly add to his reputation as a widely read student and an able expositor. It is a mine of information, culled from all the available sources, concerning not only worship in the narrower sense, but indeed of the whole life and practice of the Scottish Church; it provides a running commentary on the institutional and external development of Presbytery, which should be of great value to the historical student and of no less interest to the reading public. A rich collection of apposite facts and illuminating incidents are woven together into an attractive narrative, and the reader is carried on through page after page by sheer interest in the human element. Chapters on the Service Books, the Psalter and on the use of instrumental music, on the habit of kneeling at Communion, the Communion Service, Table and Vessels, on festivals and Saints' days, Lenten usages, the Public Fast, Ordination, ecclesiastical dress, and many other topics, show how widely Dr M'Millan has cast his net.

This is a book to possess and to enjoy, a veritable storehouse of curious and forgotten fact. Dr M'Millan is to be congratulated on having compiled a book which is certain to win popularity and to instruct while entertaining.

JOHN KNOX'S GENEVAN SERVICE BOOK, 1556: The Liturgical Portions of the Genevan Service Book used by John Knox while a Minister of the English Congregation of Marian Exiles at Geneva, 1556-1559. By William D. Maxwell, B.D., Ph.D. (Edinburgh and London: Oliver and Boyd, 1931. Pp. xvi and 222. Price 12s. 6d. net.)

For eighty-five years, until it was superseded by the Westminster 'Directory,' the Service Book of the Church of Scotland and of the Puritans in England continued as a link between these insular Churches and the Reformed Churches of the Continent. There was, in fact, a closer bond and a more real Catholicity in those days than is admitted by their opponents or understood by many of their modern representatives, for the Middle Ages ended as they had begun, with the spectacle of national Churches independent and self-sufficient in all but name. Though in many respects the development of the Reformed Churches tended ere long to accentuate and encourage national differences, in the beginnings at least the Reformers were cosmopolitan and of outlook Catholic: the extent of their interdependence and mutual helpfulness is too often obscured by later happenings. Here in Scotland the indebtedness of the Reformed Church to external stimulus and suggestion is hardly to be exaggerated. In recent years we have been shown how considerable was the influence exerted upon Scotland by the Huguenots, and even in that direction the whole story has not been told, for there still remains to study the effect of Huguenot political theory upon our own ecclesiastico-political writers. It is one of the great merits of the present volume that it deals with liturgical uses and developments in this broad and international spirit; the Scottish Service Book was indeed with but few modifications and additions the Service Book of the English congregation of Marian exiles at Geneva.

Dr Maxwell has compiled a volume of such detailed and exhaustive learning that his work will at once become, and will long remain, the standard and authoritative manual on the subject. He first briefly outlines the historical background, then traces with clarity and wealth of reference the general liturgical history and significance of the various services. Then follows a bibliographical

list of the various Service Books which make up the family tree of the 'Forme of Prayers' and the 'Ratio et Forma' of 1556. The texts themselves are next reprinted in parallel columns with notes giving the sources and the various details of usage. Seven appendices follow, occupying almost fifty pages, and finally a valuable bibliography completes the book.

A mere recital of the contents is sufficient to show the thoroughness and care with which Dr Maxwell has investigated every point in his programme. The book is not one for easy reading, but it will abundantly repay the effort it demands. If the richness of detail requires attentive and close study, at least author and publisher alike deserve commendation for the clear arrangement of material and of text. In his discussions and annotations Dr Maxwell combines knowledge of the ample literature on his subject with independence of judgment, and his conclusions are the result of both reading and thought.

In a review written on the eve of publication, it is impossible here to do more than emphasise the importance of this book for all liturgical students, and to express gratitude for a sound and scholarly piece of work which will certainly endure.

J. H. BAXTER.