

## Reviews

H. J. WOTHERSPOON, D.D., and J.M. KIRKPATRICK, D.D.: A MANUAL OF CHURCH DOCTRINE ACCORDING TO THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND. Revised and enlarged by T. F. TORRANCE, D.Theol., D.D., and RONALD SELBY WRIGHT, D.D. Oxford University Press, 1960. 132 pp. 15/-.

It is with more than ordinary pleasure that we greet this reissue of a volume of the first importance and value which, perhaps by reason of its appearance just after the War of 1914-18, never fully attracted the notice which it deserved. In it is contained the real legacy to the Church of two great churchmen and scholars. Its aim was to show that within the official standards of our Church "there is justification for an explicit adherence to the principles of the Church Historic not only with regard to doctrine, but also with regard to the nature of the Church itself, to Ordinance generally, and with regard in particular to Sacrament and Ministry." In their original preface the authors quote with satisfaction Sir J. A. R. Marriott's view: "The Presbyterian, no less than the Roman or Anglican, believed in a Church, visible, universal, and divinely ordered . . . . The Presbyterian was in fact the High Catholic of Puritanism."

Some sections have been added by the revisers, and throughout the text has been carefully revised and occasionally altered or expanded. It need hardly be said that this has been done with diligent scholarship, and with scrupulous fidelity to the views and aims of the original authors. One example will suffice. The first paragraph of the section on "Catholicity" is enforced and rounded off by some ten lines of new matter which conclude: "In the eyes of the Reformers there was no real disruption at the Reformation—baptism and ordination were held as valid and the Reformed presbyter emerged from the Roman priesthood; the Catholic Church Reformed was no national sect, but The Universal Kirk." One notices that, in the section on Baptism, the original "operation of grace" becomes an "operation of the Spirit", and one is glad to find, stated even more explicitly than in the original, the view that, while the ordinary

Minister of Baptism is the presbyter, the sacrament may, in necessity, be lawfully administered by any baptized person—a statement surprisingly absent from the Report of the recent Commission on Baptism. Our Eucharistic doctrine is beautifully illustrated by the quotation of two verses from William Bright's Communion Hymn (*Revised Church Hymnary*, 320): "And now, O Father, mindful of the love . . . ." This would have rejoiced the heart of Dr Wotherspoon, whom the present reviewer remembers saying of the lines:

For lo! between our sins and their reward

We set the passion of Thy Son our Lord.

"That expresses it exactly".

Relevant quotations from Calvin and other sources form a valuable new appendix, and the volume is most attractively produced. It is impossible in a short review to do more than indicate the merits and the potential influence of this book. One only wishes that it could be placed in the hands of every Minister and divinity student. Would that some Trust or individual might help in such a sound spiritual investment.

J. W. R.

A CHURCH HISTORY OF SCOTLAND. By J. H. S. Burleigh. Oxford University Press. 1960. 456 pp. 42s.

A son of the manse, a parish minister, Professor of Ecclesiastical History in the University of Edinburgh for the past thirty years, Principal of New College, and, finally, Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland: this wide and varied experience of Church life and a devotion to his chosen field of academic study have amply equipped Dr Burleigh to tell, in a most readable way, the story of the development of the religious life of Scotland from the earliest times to the present day.

Dr Burleigh deals faithfully with the numerous controversies which from time to time have rent the Church and shows throughout a sympathetic understanding of the conflicting principles involved, together with a wise, mature appraisal of their spiritual relevance.

This essentially scholarly work provides a 'refresher course' for ministers, and will also be read and warmly appreciated by the non-specialist reader.

D. A. H.