Irish Church Quarterly

Missionary Methods, St. Paul's or Ours by Roland Allen

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The Irish Church Quarterly, Vol. 5, No. 20 (Oct., 1912), pp. 362-363

Published by: [Irish Church Quarterly](#)

Stable URL: <http://www.jstor.org/stable/30067468>

Accessed: 17/06/2014 14:48

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THE RULE OF FAITH AND HOPE. R. L. Ottley, D.D.
(Robert Scott.) 5s. net.

This is one of the Library of Historic Theology in which some notable works have appeared. Canon Ottley intends his book to be one of a series in which he hopes in two future volumes to deal devotionally with the Lord's Prayer and the Ten Commandments. This volume is one which can be heartily commended as an attempt to deal with the articles of the Creed from a devotional and not from a historical standpoint. It is very well done, and will prove very useful, we should imagine, for Bible Classes or for material for sermons on the cardinal facts of our faith. It is not a very easy book to read through, partly because of the nature of the subject, and partly because the writer is not gifted with a very interesting style. The facts and the deductions are given very clearly and simply, and there are many suggestive ideas and thoughts. We would specially refer to the chapters on "Sin and its Remission," and on "The Hope of Glory." He has some useful remarks on Mysticism, as taught by the Apostles' Creed:—"The spiritual experience of the Church gradually interpreted and supplemented the facts of the Gospel record. The things wrought and suffered by the Word made flesh were seen to bear their fruit in a supernatural life—a life of fellowship or union with God and with the children of God; and the consciousness of this union as a matter of living experience for the intellect, the affections, the will of the individual Christian, is what we mean by Mysticism." Canon Ottley has kept this aspect of the Apostles' Creed before him, and the result is a commentary on the facts of our faith which is original and useful. It is a relief to find that one can write on the Creed without any wearisome details of controversy which so often obscure the real and vital meaning of the ancient formula.

E. J. Y.

MISSIONARY METHODS, ST. PAUL'S OR OURS. A Study
of the Church in the Four Provinces. By Roland Allen.
Library of Historic Theology. (Robert Scott.) 5s. net.

Mr. Allen has given us a book of great interest and considerable importance, both for the student of the New Testament and for those who are occupied with the Missionary problems of the present day. In a very fresh study of the record of St. Paul's missionary efforts, as related in the Acts and the Epistles, he points out certain methods adopted by the Apostle which may explain his success. The question must arise sometime for every student: How are we to explain the extraordinary success of the Apostolic labours as contrasted with the scanty results of the many years' work of modern missionaries? It is

not a satisfactory solution to say that the Apostolic times were times of miracles, and Mr. Allen does well to call attention to some facts which may explain the comparative failure of much modern missionary work. The fault lies in the methods, not in the men or their zeal. There has been too much a tendency to transplant the Western ecclesiastical organization in its completeness to Eastern soil. St. Paul laid down principles, and left the churches to work out these principles in their own way, and thus, for them, the Christian Church was one of native growth, and not, as in many modern instances, a church imported from abroad, with a fully developed liturgy and discipline, which might, or might not, be suitable to the spirit of the people. It may appeal to Anglican sentiment to find the full Anglican service carried out in the orthodox manner in every country throughout the world, but this is not the idea of the Christian Church, which is, to adapt itself to the way of thinking and feeling of every nation, so as to become part of the people's life. To encourage the growth of native churches, and to develop in the native Christians a sense of their personal responsibility and personal interest, this ought to be the aim of the Christian missionary. He must not be the sole arbiter and organizer, but must leave the Christians to work out their own salvation in their own way. In this way the Church at home will learn more of the universality of the religion of Christ and its wonderful adaptability to all sorts and conditions of men. Mr. Allen writes as a man who knows, having been himself a missionary in China. We may not agree with him in all points, for instance, we are not sure that the analogy between St. Paul and, say, a missionary to African tribes, is quite satisfactory. Those to whom St. Paul went were people who, though they may have been degraded morally, were at a certain stage of civilization, so that he was more or less on a level with them, and, moreover, he could speak to them in a common language, which was a great advantage. The child-races in Africa and elsewhere must surely need, for the present, the moral strengthening that comes from the presence and restraint of the missionary, they are not able, for some time at any rate, to act on their own initiative or to stand by themselves. We can cordially commend the book to all who are interested in these problems.

E. J. Y.

CHRISTIAN ECONOMICS. *Donnellan Lectures, 1909-10.* By J. E. Archer. (Ponsonby.) 2s. 6d. net.

A course of lectures similar to the *Donnellan* is often the vehicle for a systematic exposition of the Christian Faith, with a view to a permanent place on the shelves of the theological student.