

among the splendid hymns one still comes upon some examples of crudity that almost make one shudder. The worst fault of the book is that many of the songs occupying more than one page are so placed as to require the turning of a leaf. This could easily have been avoided and is unexcusable.

The Herald of Mercy Annual. Morgan & Scott, Ltd. 96 pp. 1 s.

Good evangelical tracts are always welcome. Every month there are eight quarter pages in clear type, with three or four pictures, for one cent. A church can either circulate it as it stands, or localize with its own news. Any number put into the hands of a reader, may easily lead him to the Saviour. The anecdotes are by Americans and Scotch, with plenty about South America and other mission fields.

A Book of Prayer for the Home Circle. By Canon Girdlestone. Morgan & Scott, Ltd. 134 pp. 2s. net.

Times of conflict and peril dispose many to pray who have forgotten their fathers' customs. So here is help for those in all stages. Babes in prayer are guided to fit readings and devotional hymns, while a week is fully provided with printed prayers to be read. As the heart is unsealed, the prayers shorten to leave room for freedom of utterance. For the maturer believer there are hints to prevent monotony and remind of themes and classes easily forgotten because outside our daily experience. Praise and intercession are dominant notes.

The Ethical Life. By C. W. Mathison, of the Florida Conference. Nashville: Publishing House of the M. E. Church, South. 1915. \$1.00 net.

This book is apparently an attempt to formulate ethics as a science of the same order as the physical sciences. The moral values, truth, love, wisdom, justice, peace, etc., are treated as objective substantial realities. The philosophy underlying this

conception reminds one of Plato's doctrine of "ideas," though the author's notion is far more crude than Plato's. In fact the whole conception is remarkably crude. In his discussion of the relation between justice and love, for instance, the author takes a position which seems directly opposed to the injunction of Jesus to love one's enemies. "Justice," he says, "is the condition of love, without which love is impossible." How, then, can one love his enemy? For one's enemy can hardly be treating him justly—how, then, would he be an enemy? But space forbids our following this curious argument.

However, the crudity of the author's conception and treatment does not prevent his saying some good things. His theory is faulty, but his moral instincts are sound. If this book is our hope for the establishment of an ethical science which has the certainly and demonstrable character of mathematics, then we must bid farewell to that hope. Indeed, the effort to formulate such a science is founded upon a singular misconception of the nature of ethical values.

C. S. GARDNER.

The Mighty and the Lowly. By Katrina Trask, Author of "In the Vanguard," etc. New York: The Macmillan Co. 1915. \$1.00.

In fine phrase and glowing eloquence Mrs. Trask in this little book defends the teaching of Jesus against what she conceives to be a narrow perversion of it. There is no doubt that some men who have undertaken to interpret the Gospel in its relation to modern economic conditions have gone to an extreme which as truly misinterprets the mind of Jesus as the opposite extreme which finds in it no meaning for economic problems.

Mrs. Trask makes a noble protest against this tendency. She insists upon the inner spiritual meaning of the religion of Jesus; and does so right nobly. She thinks the modern social agitators are building up the conception of an "exclusive Jesus" just as truly as was done in the old order. There is a real danger here. She realizes, however, that Christianity has a social meaning. When Christianity is accepted "character and not condition will