

Current Literature and Additions to the Library

A selection of recent books and old books recently acquired are noticed here for their bearing on Quakerism past or present. Unless there is a note to the contrary a copy will be found in the Library of the Society of Friends in London.

Many of the books in the Library may be borrowed by Friends, and other applicants if recommended by a Friend. Apply to the Librarian, Friends House, Euston Road, London, N.W.1.

Stocks of books regarding Friends are to be found for sale at :

Friends' Book Centre, Euston Road, London, N.W.1.

Friends' Book Store, 302 Arch Street, Philadelphia, Pa.

Friends' Book and Supply House, 101 South 8th Street, Richmond, Ind.

The Trustworthiness of Religious Experience. By D. Elton Trueblood. Swarthmore Lecture, 1939. (Allen & Unwin, pp. 93.) This is a valuable defence of religious experience as authoritative against sceptics who argue that it is illusory or subjective. It is illustrated from Quaker experience and Quaker expression, whose weaknesses are also pointed out.

Parish of Topsham, Co. Devon. Marriages, Baptisms and Burials, A.D. 1600 to 1837. Edited by H. Tapley-Soper, F.S.A. (Exeter, Devon and Cornwall Record Society, 1938, 2 vols.) prints the parochial registers and also Friends Registers besides those of other nonconformist bodies. A copy has very kindly been presented by the Devon and Cornwall Record Society.

Elizabeth Fry. Von Janet Whitney. Deutsche Ausgabe. Mit einem Vorwort von Emil Fuchs (Pyrmont: Quaker Verlag, 1939, pp. 375, illus.) is a translation of the same author's work in English published in 1937.

Blow the Man Down. By Charles Vipont. (Oxford University Press, 1939, pp. 248.) This well told Quaker story of adventure at sea in the seventeenth century is by an English Friend writing under a pseudonym. It owes its inspiration to the remarkable history of Thomas Lurting, his conversion to Quakerism and pacifism while in the King's navy, and his subsequent adventures as a pacifist. His

own account under its title *The Fighting Sailor Turn'd Peaceable Christian* is reprinted from its first edition at the end of the volume. The illustrations by Norman Hepple add notably to the attractiveness of the book, which is designed for the young reader.

A New Primmer. By F[rancis] D[aniel] P[astorius]. New York, [1698], has been reproduced in Facsimile by Photostat Americana from the unique copy belonging to the Bevan Naish Library at Selly Oak, Birmingham, which is deposited at Friends House in London. Copies have been generously placed by Photostat Americana in both these libraries as well as in the American libraries co-operating in the reproduction. *A New Primmer* is a book of instruction for schoolchildren. The copy reproduced contains also some sixty pages of MS. notes by the author.

William Bartram, Interpreter of the American Landscape. By N. Bryllion Fagin. (Baltimore, Johns Hopkins Press; and London, Humphrey Milford, 1933, pp. 229.) William Bartram, the son of John Bartram, was born near Philadelphia in 1739 and died in 1823. He was greatly influenced by his father, one of the leading botanists of his day, and followed in his footsteps. His most notable literary work, first published in 1791, was his account of travels through the southern colonies as a naturalist explorer, a course of life which he was at first enabled to follow by the generosity of Dr. John Fothergill of London.

William Bartram's *Travels* were widely read in England as well as America and also on the Continent of Europe. Their author combined a romantic descriptive style of writing with accurate observation, and much of the present work is concerned with showing the influence of his *Travels* upon English and other writers of the nineteenth century. Nearly thirty pages are devoted to the comparison of passages from Bartram with passages from the poetry of Wordsworth. There is in many instances striking evidence of Bartram's influence on Wordsworth. There are similar studies of the indebtedness of Coleridge, Shelley, Southey, Lamb, Emerson, and others to the Quaker explorer.

The Lovely Quaker. By John Lindsey. (London, Rich & Cowan, 1939, pp. 322, 15s.) This is another attempt to unravel the mystery which surrounded Hannah Lightfoot from the day of her marriage ceremony with Isaac Axford in 1753, when she disappeared and was never publicly seen again. Gossip has always associated her name

with George, Prince of Wales, afterwards George III. The young woman was disowned by Westminster Monthly Meeting three years later for being "married by a priest to one not of our society". Was the "one" Isaac Axford or Prince George? Besides the romantic interest, there was at one time some political interest in the question because it might have affected the succession to the throne. The author thinks that the prince was married to Hannah, that his subsequent marriage was not legal, and that this accounts for the amount of suppression and secrecy which undoubtedly surrounded the whole matter during the lifetime of the king.

The Origins of the Holy Alliance of 1815. By Arthur G. Dorland, F.R.S.C. Reprinted from the "Transactions of the Royal Society of Canada." Vol. xxxiii, 1939, 21 pp.

In this paper influences of three kinds upon the mind of Czar Alexander I of Russia are examined; 1st, philosophical and political, mainly of French origin; 2nd, religious and humanitarian influences mainly from Germany and England; 3rd, the influence of Mme de Krudener. Under the second heading the author describes at some length the influence of William Allen and Stephen Grellet.

He brings evidence that the effect of the two Friends was more lasting than that of Mme de Krudener and that her influence in forming the Holy Alliance has been overestimated. Appropriate extracts from contemporary documents are printed.