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NOTES AND NEWS.

IT is with profound regret that we have to record the death of Sir Evan Spicer, J.P., D.L., which took place on Monday, the 22nd of December, at his home "Belair," West Dulwich, in his eighty-ninth year.

SIR EVAN SPICER.

Sir Evan was the last surviving member of the original body of Trustees of the John Rylands Library. For thirty-eight years he took a very active interest, particularly in its financial affairs, and on several occasions he had rendered signal service to the Trust.

Rarely was Sir Evan absent from the annual meetings of the Trustees, and as recently as March of last year he wrote signifying his intention of attending a meeting which was to be held during that month, but at the last moment, to reproduce his own words, he "caved in," greatly to his disappointment.

Sir Evan was the last survivor of the four sons of Mr. James Spicer, D.L., of Woodford, Essex, at one time Treasurer of the Congregational Union, and the foremost layman in the denomination. All four brothers inherited and cultivated an interest in church life and Christian service. In early manhood they came to a working agreement whereby one brother (James) should live in Kent, another (Albert) in Essex, a third (Evan) in Surrey, and the fourth (George) in Hertfordshire, so that each would have a distinct field of service, and none would trespass on the other's spheres of influence.

Evan was born on the 20th of April, 1849. He was educated at the Mill Hill School, of which he lived to be senior Old Millhillian, and President of the Old Millhillians' Club. Upon leaving school he joined his father's firm, James Spicer & Son, wholesale stationers and papermakers, in Upper Thames Street,

London. He early interested himself in local government affairs, and when the London County Council was created he was elected at once to the aldermanic bench, acting for three years as chairman of the Council's Finance Committee. After serving a year as Deputy-Chairman of the Council, he was elected Chairman for 1906-1907.

The knighthood conferred upon Sir Evan in 1917, was in recognition of his services to London's civic life, and it may be said here that few men in public life have employed their gifts and opportunities to wider and better advantage.

Even while devoting his energies to his exacting work of the London County Council Sir Evan made time for a variety of religious activities. The Free Churches were his first and life-long interest, and he was a tower of strength to the Congregational Church, to which he rendered loyal and generous service. In 1886, when he was thirty-seven years of age, he was appointed Chairman of the Surrey Congregational Union, which was his first important public office. Never did he allow his public work to interfere with his church attendance. Often after a long day on the London County Council Committees he would attend a deacon's meeting, or take part in an evening service.

In 1896, the year in which the French Government assumed control of the island of Madagascar, Sir Evan Spicer was sent by the London Missionary Society to negotiate with the French authorities as to the London Missionary Society's missions. Sir Evan's genial tactfulness was rewarded with success, which resulted in the forging of an abiding friendship with the Governor, General Gallieni, who twenty years later was to play so conspicuous a part in the Great War. One of Sir Evan's most prized honours was the Order of "Chevalier of the Legion of Honour," which was conferred upon him by the French Government in recognition of his services.

Sir Evan's marriage, in 1873, to Miss Annie Whitley of Halifax, was the commencement of an ideal companionship which ended only with Lady Spicer's death on Christmas Day, 1932. Until her death Lady Spicer, with her beloved husband, dispensed hospitality on a lavish scale at their beautiful home at Dulwich, with its park-like estate, its tree-sheltered lake, and its home farm,

which lie within the old four-mile cab radius from Charing Cross. They also made it their habit to visit the village churches in the county and make friends with their ministers. Their names are to be found upon the foundation stones of many churches. With them kindness was an ingrained habit, but many of their kindly acts were delightfully unusual and unobtrusive, as the writer can testify.

The wide range of Sir Evan's public service may be gathered by a bare recital of the offices he filled at various times : He was Chairman of the British and Foreign School Society, Chairman of the South London Polytechnic, Commissioner of the Lambeth Public Libraries, Governor respectively of Dulwich College, of the Royal Holloway College, and of Cheshunt College. He was Treasurer of the Free Church Council, and of the London Missionary Society, a very vigorous member of the General Committee of the British and Foreign Bible Society, a member of the Court of the Fishmongers' Company, and President of the Equitable Insurance Company.

Throughout his long residence in Dulwich Sir Evan was closely associated with Emmanuel Church as member and deacon, and a long succession of ministers of that church found in him guide, counsellor and friend.

Sir Evan was an unbending evangelical who followed the old paths. He was suspicious of modern theological tendencies, but during the last decade he found a new and thrilling religious experience in the Oxford Group Movement, to which he attached himself with characteristic eagerness and enthusiasm.

Sir Evan was blessed with a very good constitution and it was not until early in 1937, when he was eighty-eight years of age, that his health began to wane, and that he gradually relinquished most of his public duties.

Rarely has a more representative congregation assembled than the hundreds of men and women in public life who attended the memorial service to pay a last tribute to their friend.

In the crowded church at Dulwich of which he long had been deacon were members of both Houses of Parliament, the senior alderman of the City of London, and numbers of preachers to whom Sir Evan had been a good friend.

The preacher, Dr. Sidney Berry, delivered a moving eulogy of this good and lovable servant of his fellow-men.

His memory will be cherished by all who knew him. He will be missed in many circles, where by his life and character he had won respect and affection.

Four sons and two daughters survive to mourn their beloved father's loss, to whom we desire to offer our sincere sympathy in their sore bereavement.

By the death of Dr. Alphonse Mingana, which took place on Sunday, the 5th of December, 1937, at his home at King's Norton, Birmingham, at the age of fifty-six years, Oriental scholarship has suffered an incalculable loss.

ALPHONSE MINGANA.

For the seventeen years between July, 1915, and January, 1932, Dr. Mingana had been Curator of Oriental Manuscripts in the John Rylands Library, a position he resigned in order to take up similar work in the then newly erected library of the Selly Oak Colleges, at Birmingham, which had been provided and equipped by Mr. and Mrs. Edward Cadbury.

It was in 1915 that Dr. Mingana accepted the invitation of the Rylands Librarian to join the staff of the Rylands Library with the primary object of preparing for publication a catalogue of the library's collection of Arabic manuscripts, which is regarded as one of the richest and most important extant.

For seventeen years Dr. Mingana laboured persistently at this catalogue, and before leaving Manchester he had completed the catalogue proper, which fills nearly six hundred quarto printed pages. It was published in 1934.

In the course of this work a number of most important discoveries were made, many of which have been described or published in the pages of the BULLETIN. Perhaps the most noteworthy was that of the earliest known apology for Islam as against Christianity, written about 850 A.D., at Baghdad, by 'Ali Ṭabari, at the Court of and with the assistance of the Caliph Muttawakkil. This was considered to be of such outstanding importance that Dr. Mingana was requested to prepare the text and an English translation for publication. This was done, and the two volumes

were issued by the Governors, in 1923, under the title: "The Book of Religion and Empire," and at once caused a great stir in the East. Another find which, upon its publication in the BULLETIN, also excited considerable interest in the East, was a Charter of Protection granted to the Nestorian Christian Church in A.D. 1138 by Muktafi II, the Mohammedan Caliph of Baghdad. No such charter of protection of Christians by a Mohammedan Caliph had hitherto been known. Other articles, including, in particular, two on the Early Spread of Christianity in India and the Far East, which have thrown a flood of new light upon the subjects with which they deal, met with a very warm welcome from students of the early history, not only of Christianity, but of Islam, and resulted in extending the influence and interest of the BULLETIN, and of directing attention to the richness of the collection, the examination of which had yielded such excellent results.

In the spring of 1923, in the autumn of 1925, and again in 1929, whilst still on the staff of the Rylands Library, Dr. Mingana undertook journeys to the East in search of manuscripts. This project was generously financed by Mr. Edward Cadbury, with the result that Dr. Mingana exceeded his most sanguine anticipations by bringing back some six hundred Syriac and Garshūni manuscripts, together with a large number of Arabic examples. The Syriac and Garshūni manuscripts are of the greatest possible importance, comprising, as they do, many lost texts of the Early Christian Fathers, and also of Christian Apocrypha. Some of these texts have been edited with critical apparatus and translations by Dr. Mingana, and have made their appearance in the pages of the BULLETIN, under the serial title: "Woodbrooke Studies," and also separately in volume form, but many remained still to be dealt with, and were issued in volume form from Selly Oak.

Another piece of work for which Dr. Mingana was responsible, in collaboration with Dr. Rendel Harris, was a facsimile edition of the famous Rylands manuscript of the "Odes of Solomon," which has excited such world-wide interest since its discovery in 1909 by Dr. Rendel Harris, that quite a library of literature has grown up around it. The facsimile of the Syriac text, is

accompanied by a translation in English versicles and an exhaustive introduction by the two editors. This edition was published in two volumes, in 1919-1920, and may be regarded as the "definitive edition" of the "Odes of Solomon."

In 1933 Dr. Mingana published the "Catalogue of the Syriac and Garshūni Manuscripts in the possession of the Trustees of the Woodbrooke Settlement, Selly Oak." This was followed in 1936 by the "Catalogue of the Christian Arabic and additional Syriac Manuscripts . . .," and at his death he was engaged upon catalogues of additional Syriac and Christian Arabic Manuscripts, and of the Islamic Arabic collection at Woodbrooke.

Dr. Mingana leaves a wife, a son, and a daughter to mourn his loss, to whom we offer our deepest sympathy.

The present year marks the four hundredth anniversary of the publication of the Royal "Injunctions," drawn up by Thomas, Lord Cromwell, and issued by Archbishop Cranmer (between September 30 and October 11, 1538) under the authority of King Henry VIII.

The "Injunctions" were issued to all the clergy of the province, requiring them to set up in some convenient place within the church of which they had cure, one book of the whole Bible of the largest volume, in English, so that their parishioners might most commodiously resort to the same, and read it.

Under this authority, not only were the laity permitted to read the Bible in their own language, but a copy of the Bible, in English, was to be set up in every parish church, so that they might have access to it.

For the first time this privilege of the OPEN BIBLE was proclaimed throughout the parishes of this country, and it is the granting of this freedom that is being commemorated this year.

The commemoration of the publication of the "Injunctions," is to be followed next year (1939) by the commemoration of the four hundredth anniversary of the publication in April, 1539, of the "Great Bible," which is unquestionably the "Whole Bible of the largest volume in English," which was in active preparation in Paris towards the

THE
ROYAL "IN-
JUNCTIONS"
OF 1538.

THE GREAT
BIBLE, 1539.

end of 1538, and was intended to conform to the requirements of the Injunctions.

Elsewhere in the present issue we have dealt at greater length with these memorable events in our national history, and have endeavoured briefly to retrace the steps which led up to this great undertaking.

We extend a welcome to Dr. H. H. Rowley, Professor of Semitic Languages in the University College of North Wales, who contributes a brilliant and original article on "Israel's Sojourn in Egypt," in which he discusses, in the light of recent work, the date of the Exodus, and the date of the Eisodus. In the discussion of the Exodus, Dr. Rowley deals not only with the more usual views, but also with the recent views of Meek and Albright, and in the discussion of the Eisodus he presents a view which in part is a new one. Finally Dr. Rowley indicates briefly the significance of the view taken for the understanding of the religion and literature of Israel, with particular reference to the Decalogue.

The lecture which Professor E. Robertson delivered in the library, in December last, upon "Life in Shechem two centuries ago," the substance of which is printed elsewhere in the present issue, was based mainly upon the information supplied by the Samaritans themselves in the large number of entries in Arabic left by them in the margins and on the surplus leaves of their codices, several of which are preserved in the Rylands Library.

These are varied in character and include notices of births (one entry records the birth of triplets), marriages and deaths, accounts of unusual happenings, earthquakes, abnormal weather conditions, descriptions of their festivals, processions, pilgrimages to the tombs of their saints buried in the neighbourhood, etc.

By piecing entries together the tragic life story of Salamah, a Samaritan of good family, has been unfolded, revealing the high mortality rate (especially infant mortality) in Shechem two hundred years ago; smallpox is particularly mentioned in some cases as the cause of death.

Elaborate descriptions of dreams (of which summaries were given in the lecture) showed that at that period there was the promise (never fulfilled) of a development of imaginative writing along those lines.

This information has been gleaned by Professor Robertson in the course of his work on an elaborate "Catalogue of the Samaritan Manuscripts in the John Rylands Library," which is eagerly awaited by scholars, and which we hope to publish in the course of the next few months.

We welcome to our pages the study of "The Parliamentary Representation of Lancashire under John of Gaunt," by H. G. Richardson, which is based upon a number of recently discovered documents which illustrate the manner in which members of Parliament were chosen for Lancashire while John of Gaunt was Duke. The documents themselves, which have been printed as an appendix, are of much more than local interest, because they throw light on the whole question of parliamentary representation.

JOHN OF
GAUNT AND
LANCASHIRE.

Many of our readers will recall Mr. Richardson's study of the "Provisions of Oxford: a forgotten document and some comments," which he published in our pages in 1933, in collaboration with Dr. Sayles.

The Secretary of the Society of Genealogists, in a recent communication to *The Times*, has called attention to a scheme whereby information relating to Parish Registers, which have been transcribed, may be centralised and made available to all who are interested in these early records.

PARISH
REGISTERS.

In the past many original registers have disappeared or been destroyed by damp or fire; and until parish registers have been collected and centralised, they are still liable to these hazards.

One of the best safeguards is to have transcripts made, if printing by one of the many Parish Register Societies is not available. These transcripts might be made in duplicate, so that one copy could be preserved in the church and so obviate risk of damage by the constant handling of the original register, and

the other copy in some repository, like the repositories in the various counties, which have been appointed by the Master of the Rolls, under the Law of Property (Amendment) Act of 1924 for the preservation of manorial and other documents relating to the different counties.

The scheme of the Society of Genealogists is to compile a list of transcripts of registers in private hands, or in public libraries, which shall contain full particulars of each register. Such a list, as the Secretary points out, would ensure that no one would undertake to transcribe a parish register, of which a transcript exists already somewhere.

Already the Society has published a catalogue of over 3000 such transcripts in its own possession, and it is anxious to extend this scheme, and invites co-operation.

The address of the Society of Genealogists is Chaucer House, Malet Place, London, W.C. 1.

Under the provisions of the "Parochial Registers and Records Measure" (19-20 George V, no. 1), the Bishops are empowered to establish diocesan record offices in which any register not actually in use, and any deeds or documents of value as historical records, may be deposited by the minister concerned. In this way many of these historical records may be saved from destruction through careless and thoughtless neglect.

CUSTODY OF
PARISH
REGISTERS.

The whole matter is permissive as far as the Bishop is concerned, but his orders, once given, may be enforced in the county court.

We venture to express the hope that the Bishops will direct that a systematic inspection by competent officials be carried out in the various dioceses, with a view of determining whether the registers and other parish or church muniments are properly cared for, and are readily accessible for purposes of consultation, under the necessary safeguards. In their report the officials should be instructed to indicate what is the condition of the various registers and other documents, and in cases where there are evidences of decay from mildew or other causes, or of disrepair from careless handling, to call attention to the need for

immediate action, in order that the necessary repairs or treatment may be applied so as to arrest decay, and prevent further disintegration. The parish chest, or safe, in which the registers and papers are often stored is not infrequently the cause of the trouble, for damp and vitiated air are amongst the worst enemies of such manuscripts, since like human beings, they require air and light.

In cases where the parish does not possess appropriate and safe accommodation for their records, especially for those which are no longer in current use, they should be ordered into the safe custody of the episcopal registry or record office, or of some public repository where at all reasonable times they will be accessible for consultation.

The safe custody of vestry minute-books is equally desirable. As another correspondent to *The Times* has pointed out, these minute-books record a rich variety of incidents associated with the accounts of the overseers, churchwardens and parish constables, and in some cases developments relating to highways, drainage, and special meetings of parishioners for extraordinary purposes can be dated.

VESTRY
MINUTE-
BOOKS.

It may not be without interest, whilst writing about parish registers, to reproduce the paragraphs in the Set of Royal "Injunctions" issued by Thomas, Lord Cromwell, in October, 1538, with the authority of King Henry VIII, directing the clergy to establish parish registers.

ESTABLISH-
MENT OF
PARISH
REGISTERS.

It reads: "that you, and every parson, vicar, or curate within this diocese, shall for every church keep one book or register, wherein ye shall write the day and year of every wedding, christening, and burying made within your parish for your time, and so every man succeeding you likewise; and also there insert every person's name that shall be so wedded, christened, or buried: and for the safe keeping of the same book, the parish shall be bound to provide of their common charges one sure coffer, with two locks and keys, whereof the one to remain with you, and the other with the wardens of every such parish, wherein

the said book shall be laid up ; which book you shall every Sunday take forth, and in the presence of the said wardens, or one of them, write and record in the same all the weddings, christenings, and buryings made the whole week before, and that done, to lay up the book in the said coffer as before ; and for every time that the same shall be omitted, the party that shall be in fault thereof shall forfeit to the said church, three shillings and fourpence, to be employed on the reparation of the same church."

" . . . you shall once every quarter of a year read these and the other former injunctions given unto you by the authority of the king's highness, openly and deliberately before all your parishioners, to the intent that both you may be the better admonished of your duty, and your said parishioners the more incited to ensue the same for their part."

A discovery of considerable importance to Johnsonian students has been made recently. The story of the find may be briefly related as follows : In an old croquet box which has reposed undisturbed and dusty for a century and a half first in the Scottish Castle of Auchinleck, and later at Malahide Castle in Ireland, Boswell's original manuscript of "The Journal of a Tour to the Hebrides" has been found.

JOHNSON
AND
BOSWELL.

Upon examination the manuscript showed at a glance that it differed considerably from the printed version which has hitherto passed as Boswell's.

Boswell wrote his journal during his tour with Dr. Johnson in 1773, but it remained unpublished because he could never find time to put it into shape for the printer until after Dr. Johnson's death, which took place in 1785, when the publishers clamoured for a book about the Doctor as soon as possible.

As "The Journal of a Tour in the Hebrides" was the most nearly complete of all the works he had in mind he set to work upon it. Finding, however, the job of editing it more than he had bargained for he called in a certain Edward Malone, a Shakespearian scholar of taste and tact, to help him to put in order all that he had set down in the hour of his inspiration.

Malone's ideas of good form in letters differed from those of

Boswell. He felt that Boswell had gone too far. To describe Kenneth Macaulay (Lord Macaulay's great uncle) as "most illiterate, . . ." to say of Lady Macdonald: "Sir: this woman would sink a ninety-gun ship, she is so dull, so heavy," was not altogether good manners, and the manuscript bristled with such points. Malone mercilessly blue-pencilled these passages and a great deal of self-revealing matter which shows more than any other of his writings the individuality of Boswell.

Colonel Isham, the famous Johnson collector, who published a few years ago other recently discovered Boswell material in the famous Rudge edition of eighteen volumes, has acquired the "Hebrides" manuscript from Lord Talbot de Malahide, and an edition of Boswell's own text has been published, uniform with the Rudge edition by Messrs. Heinemann at the cost of five guineas. An ordinary edition at the price of one guinea has also been issued.

For nine years in succession, generally at the commencement of the Winter Session, Professor H. B. Charlton has presented to crowded and enthusiastic audiences in the Rylands lecture theatre, one of a series of interpretations of Shakespeare's comedies, in the course of which he has done for the comedies what A. C. Bradley did for the tragedies.

SHAKE-
SPEARIAN
COMEDY.

In undertaking this survey Professor Charlton's object has been to see the comedies as a realization of Shakespeare's increasing grasp on the art and the idea of comedy. It attempts to appraise the spirit of comedy in each of the comedies, and so to work towards an assessment both of Shakespeare's comic genius and of the nature of romantic comedy. In doing this he has made it possible for many of us to see more fully than hitherto has been possible the life of men and women as Shakespeare saw it.

Shakesperian students the world over, who have been familiar with Professor Charlton's treatment of his subject, through the pages of the BULLETIN, will welcome the appearance of the collected volume of his studies, which is published by Methuen & Co. in an attractive form at the price of half a guinea.

We print in the present issue the first of a series of articles on "Robert Browning," in which Professor Charlton proposes to deal with that "greatest nineteenth-century English poet after Wordsworth," in the same way that he has dealt with Shakespeare's Comedies.

ROBERT
BROWNING.

The final volume of the new national Italian encyclopædia, "Enciclopedia Italiana di scienze, lettere, ed arti," has been issued, and the set of thirty-five volumes is now available to readers in the Rylands Library.

THE NEW
ITALIAN
ENCYCLO-
PÆDIA.

The encyclopædia has been issued under the direction of a special institute founded by Senator Treccani with Giovanni Gentile as the scientific director.

It has been produced on much the same lines as the "Encyclopædia Britannica," which the compilers had taken as their model with a desire to excel. It has taken nine years to produce, and in many respects the compilers have achieved their ambition, for it is much more up to date than its model, and it is certainly fuller and more authoritative.

It is not true to say, as one of our contemporaries has declared, that Italy alone among all the great nations had formerly possessed no work of this kind. We have before us the "Nuova Enciclopedia Italiana". Sesta Edizione corredata . . . con Suppl. del Gerolamo Boccardo, 1875-1899, which is in thirty volumes, of the same size as the new one.

The following titles represent a selection of the works added to the shelves of the library since the publication of our last issue :—

ACCESSIONS
TO THE
LIBRARY.

ART: BEAUMONT (C. W.), "The complete book of ballets: a guide to the ballets of the 19th and 20th centuries," 8vo; CANTLEY (H. Munro), "Suffolk churches and their treasures," 4to; "CORPUS VASORUM ANTIQVORVM BELGIQVE: Bruxelles, Musées Royaux d'Art," folio; DAVIDSON (A.), "Edward Lear," 8vo; FOKKER (T. H.), "Roman Baroque Art: the history of a style," 2 vols. 4to; GALPIN (F. W.), "The music of the Sumerians and their immediate successors the Babylonians and the Assyrians," 4to; HABERLY (L.), "Mediæval English paving tiles," 4to; MARLE (R. van), "The Italian

schools of painting, 16 : the Renaissance painters of Tuscany," 8vo ; RICE (D. Talbot), "The Icons of Cyprus," 4to ; SCHUNKE (Ilse), "Beiträge zum Rollen-und Platteneinband im 16 Jahrhundert," 8vo ; ZERVOS (Christian), "Catalan Art from the 9th to the 15th centuries," 8vo.

BIBLIOGRAPHY : CARTIER (A. G.), "Bibliographie des éditions des De Tournes, Imprimeurs Lyonnais," 2 vols. 4to ; CHROUST (A.), "Monumenta palaeographica : Denkmäler der Schreibkunst des Mittelalters," folio ; CLERCQ (Abbé C. de), "Catalogue des manuscrits du Grand Séminaire des Malines," 4 vols., 8vo ; CURRIER (T. F.), "A bibliography of John Greenleaf Whittier," 8vo ; FAIDER (P.), "Catalogue des manuscrits de la Bibliothèque publique de la Ville de Courtrai," 8vo ; MASSIE (Joseph), "Bibliography of the collection of books and tracts on commerce, currency, and poor law (1557-1763), formed by J. Massie, transcribed from Lansdowne MS. by William A. Shaw," 8vo ; MAZZATINTI (G.) and SOBRELLI (A.), "Inventari dei manoscritti delle biblioteche d'Italia," vols. 65 and 66 : Bologna, 2 vols., 8vo ; NEWCOMBE (L.), "Library co-operation in the British Isles," 8vo ; NIJHOFF-KRONENBERG, "Nederlandsche Bibliographie van 1500 tot 1540," 8vo ; PERIODICALS, "Union catalogue of the periodical publications in the University libraries of the British Isles, compiled on behalf of the Joint Standing Committee on Library Co-operation," 8vo ; RÉPERTOIRE DE BIBLIOGRAPHIE FRANÇAISE, contenant tous les ouvrages imprimés en France et aux Colonies, et les ouvrages français publiés à l'étranger, 1501-1930," 6 vols., 8vo ; SSU-YU-TENG and K. BIGGERSTAFF, "An annotated bibliography of selected Chinese reference books," 8vo ; THOMSEN (P.), "Die Palästina-literatur : eine internationale Bibliographie in systematischer Ordnung," 5 vols., 8vo.

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