

Notices of Books.

THE GATE OF REMEMBRANCE: The Story of the Psychological Experiment which resulted in the Discovery of the Edgar Chapel at Glastonbury, by Frederick Bligh Bond, F.R.I.B.A. (Oxford, B. H. Blackwell, 1918; 8vo., pp. x, 176; with 5 plates and 15 figures; 6s. net).

It is not surprising that this book has created much interest and has already run into a second edition. Before judging it, it is necessary to understand the trend of the author's mind.

He had previously read and stored his mind with the literature of Glastonbury Abbey and felt convinced that Professor Willis was more right than wrong in deciding for an extended Eastern Chapel at Glastonbury Abbey Church. Mr. Bond's mind was full of this subject.

He next considered the question—Can available information be supplemented by unrecorded memories of the past? Is anything really forgotten? Can the mind be trained to recall a past outside its own experience? Is there a universal or cosmic storehouse of memory which students may search? The author thought there might be.

But how? So he is led to try automatic writing with the result that a series of script gave him all the information he required and much more than he ever expected.

The excavation of the Edgar Chapel verified the script, and we wait with great interest for the excavation of the supposed site of the Loretto Chapel.

Reviewers of the book have referred to the spooks and ghosts of Glastonbury Abbey. Surely the personification of monks long dead in this book is more of the nature of day-dreams. The mind disengaged with every-day things is allowed to picture that which it has been working upon, and is worked upon by these memories of the past. "The present jostles with the past; we walk and talk with those of other times, oblivious of the gulf between. Then emerge the personalities of former monks and others who speak to us in the language of dream, language in which the past and present of many periods are blended and which betrays the limitation of our own conscious knowledge."

The imagination is not despised but trained. The mind of the present is educated and re-enforced by the mind of the past. The

intellect is allowed to work in union with intuition. The result is put to the test, and an Edgar chapel is revealed, and a Loretto chapel waits for excavation. It all sounds very wonderful, but surely here, as in all other things, it is our duty to prove all things and to hold fast that which is good.

G. W. S.

THE SAXON BISHOPS OF WELLS: A Historical Study in the Tenth Century by J. Armitage Robinson, D.D., Dean of Wells. (London, Humphrey Milford, for the British Academy, 1918; 8vo., pp. 1-69; 5s. net).

In this learned pamphlet the Dean of Wells treats of the early history of the Bishopric of Wells. It is impossible in the space at our disposal to give an adequate review of this interesting study, so we content ourselves with giving a brief account of its contents.

It is divided into seven sections, which are headed—

1. The First Bishop of Wells (Athelm, whose consecration was *circa* 909).
2. The Subdivision of the Wessex Dioceses.
3. The Plegmund Narrative.
4. The Coronation of King Athelstan by Archbishop Athelm, and the Date of St. Dunstan's Birth.
5. The Successors of Bishop Athelm, 923-74.
6. The Later Saxon Bishops, 974-1033.
7. Additional Notes.
 - A. The Early Endowment of the See of Wells.
 - B. The Name Æthelhelm or Æthelm.
 - C. The Date of Athelm's Translation to Canterbury.
 - D. The Tombs of Athelm, Wulfhelm and Lyfing at Canterbury.
 - E. The Perils of the Road to Rome.
 - F. Three Swiss Confraternity Books.
 - G. Archbishop Wulfhelm and the Laws of King Athelstan.
 - H. Bishop Brihthelm and his Namesakes.
 - I. The First Abbots of Westminster.
 - J. The Various Bishops Brihtwine.

We need hardly say that the pamphlet shows the usual signs of the Dean's power of dealing with early charters and his critical acumen in the comparative use of these difficult and somewhat obscure documents. To those of us who have not been able to penetrate deeply into disputed points of chronology, perhaps the most interesting discussion has reference to the real date of the birth of St. Dunstan, one of the six greatest Englishmen who have ever lived, and the consequent rehabilitation of historical statements which recent scholars have rejected.

F. W. W.