

It may still be true that the name of William Law suggests little or nothing, even to the educated intelligence of the twentieth century, beyond the authorship of the *Serious Call* and *Christian Perfection*, but Mr. Hobhouse sets us wondering by the publication of *Selected Mystical Writings of William Law*, edited with Notes by Stephen Hobhouse, M.A., and a Foreword by Aldous Huxley (Rockliff Publishing Corporation, 425 pp., demy 8vo, 25s. net). How has he achieved this second edition, after only ten years, for a volume which, as its title plainly declares, is primarily a selection of the writings of a mystic and a recluse of two centuries ago? Does it mean that Mr. Hobhouse succeeded, ten years ago, in persuading his readers of the enduring value of Law's neglected works? Or does it mean a real revival of interest in mysticism, or at least in its greatest English exponent, to whom John Wesley owed so much?

There is, of course, much more than the writings of William Law within these pages, and the permanent value of this volume may lie in what Mr. Hobhouse himself contributes, as much as in the reproduction of Law's most characteristic passages. Furthermore, there is here a sufficient corpus of evidence to establish the religious genius of Law, in his own right, and not merely in reflection of the influence of Boehme. Law was the greatest of the English mystics, apart from his conscious discipleship of Boehme, and, as Mr. Hobhouse by his admirable choice of examples has shown, a superb master of English prose.

The purpose of this excellently produced book is 'to promote both a more living worship of God and a better understanding of the Christian Faith', and, for obvious additional reasons, we commend it to all students of the life of Wesley.

J. BRAZIER GREEN

NOTES AND QUERIES.

- £68. A STRANGE WESLEY PEDIGREE—One of our members, Mr. G. F. Parker, of Weston-on-Trent, has drawn our attention to an eccentric pedigree of the Wesley family, drawn up by the Rev. Mark Noble (1754-1827), and published from his manuscript

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in the *Reliquary*, vol. viii (1867-8), page 188. Its quaintness makes it worth preserving, although it adds nothing to our historical knowledge. Noble, who was born and passed his early years in the Birmingham area, would almost certainly have first-hand knowledge of Wesley and Methodism. He was the son of a Birmingham merchant who after trying his hand at the law and business eventually became a clergyman. His chief claim to fame was his work as antiquarian and biographer, though he was far from being in the first rank. The *Dictionary of National Biography* handles him very roughly, saying that

Noble's writings are those of an imperfectly educated, vulgar-minded man. His ignorance of English grammar and composition renders his books hard to read and occasionally unintelligible, while the moral reflections with which they abound are puerile.

It is as well to have this judgement in mind whilst perusing the document below.

Ye Westley Family

Mr. Bartholomew Wesley at Charmouth, Co. Dorset, who is supposed to have been successively a Weaver, a Soldier, a Preacher, and a Physician, wished to have seized Chas. II. after Worcester battle, but his long prayers prevented.

The Rev. John Westley, ejected from Whitechurch near Blandford. Co. Dorset, a most spirituous nonconformist

The Rev. Samuel Westley, Rector of Epworth co. Lincoln, the High-Church zealot and Scripture doggerel rhymer

The Rev. Samuel Wesley of Tiverton. a Poetical Jacobite

The Rev. Saint John Westley

The Rev. Chas. Wesley = Sarah dau. of Marmaduke Gwynne Esq. of Garth, Co. Brecon

Mr. Earle, a surgeon = Westley only child

Mr. Mansell of Dublin = Earle

Charles Westley a fine musician

Samuel Westley a Roman Catholic also a musician.

This is a strange pedigree. Republicanism begets Nonconformity,

WESLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Nonconformity begets Conformity, Conformity begets three brats,
a Jacobite and two Methodists, of the last Methodist comes a musician
and a Papist. What a race!!!

John attempted to defend his brother Samuel's memory by
representing him a Tory, not a Jacobite, but I think his reasons but
weakly.
Mark Noble.

Rev. Frank Baker, B.A., B.D.

The Annual Lecture arranged by the W.H.S. will be delivered in the New Room, Bristol, on Friday, July 16th, to commence at 7-30. The subject is "Charles Wesley as revealed by his Letters", and the Lecturer is the Rev. F. Baker, B.A., B.D. The chair will be taken by Dr. C. C. Morgans of Bristol.

The Annual Meeting will be held at the New Room on the same evening commencing at 6-0 p.m.

Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Ibberson kindly invite any officers and members of the W.H.S. to Tea at 4-30 p.m. in the New Room. It is essential that those who desire to accept this invitation. should send their names to Rev. E. T. Selby 4 Charles Street, Bristol 2, not later than Wednesday, July 14th.

Lunch-hour talks of about 15 minutes will be delivered in the New Room.

Wednesday, July 14th, Rev. F. Baker : Miss Sarah Wesley of Bristol.

Thursday, July 15th, Mrs. Elsie Harrison : The Household at the New Room.

Saturday, July 17th, Mr. Stanley Sowton : Echoing footsteps of the Wesleys in Cornwall.

Wednesday, July 21st, Rev. E. T. Selby : John Wesley as Pastor in Bristol.

EDITORIAL NOTE—We much regret that, owing to the limitations to which we are now subject, we are obliged to hold over several useful contributions which we had hoped to include in this issue. The fourth and final instalment of Dr. Brown's Cornish Notes will appear in December.