

The Churchman

For two-thirds of his life Sabine Baring-Gould not only held the status of ordination, but was fully engaged in the work of a parish clergyman. That fact strongly colours this issue of the Newsletter. I hope that other aspects of SBG's many faceted life will come to the fore in the following issues.

A friend and former colleague of mine recently sent me a copy of the July issue of 'By The Way', which contains the summary of a sermon by the author of that publication, Norman Hillyer, my friend's predecessor as Rector of Hatherleigh. Mr. Hillyer then kindly forwarded the full notes of the original sermon preached in Hatherleigh on 7th September, 1980, one of a series on 'texts of famous Christians', and has consented to its use in the Newsletter.

Prices of SBG's books vary enormously. Some huge sums are reported as passing hands at auctions; indeed, one correspondent has seen in a bookshop a copy of the not too rare 'Devonshire Characters' (admittedly with SBG bookplate and a letter from the author to the purchaser included) priced at £60. I hope you will find the books offered in the Newsletter reasonable value ... however, I have included some higher-priced items this time.

For reference purposes, part one of a 'hymnology chart' appears - please write in if you know of other books on hymns mentioning SBG and his work. Anthologies do not usually constitute primary sources of information, but offer another sideline for collectors.

Members of the Baring-Gould family have been most helpful in various ways, and I am delighted to be able to reproduce extracts from recent letters.

One of the most interesting items to come my way lately has been a copy of my own church magazine for March 1924 containing the 'Home Words' insert, which included a full-length article on SBG by the Revd. John T. Salisbury. It has had to be reduced in size to fit the Newsletter and is, inevitably, not as clear as a typescript would be, but the original flavour seemed too good to miss.

(unfortunately now held over for next issue)

DPRS.