

## *Blackfriars*

But M. Lavedan's powers of description, which are those of a genius, make the book most fascinating reading; and the translator has done his very difficult task so well that the literary excellence of the original is not lost in the English rendering.

M.B.

THE CATHOLIC DIRECTORY, 1930. (Burns, Oates and Washbourne; 3/6).

*The Catholic Directory* is an indispensable guide to the practical activities, institutions, and personnel of the Catholic Church in England. It needs no recommendation. A new feature this year is the abolition of the arrangement of parishes and missions by counties; but an Index of Counties is provided instead. It is good value for the money; but I wonder if an even lower price and simpler binding would reward the publishers with a circulation which would justify the reduction.

THE SECULAR PRIESTHOOD. By the Rev. E. J. Mahoney, D.D. (Burns, Oates & Washbourne, 1930, 6/-).

An account of the vocation, training, life and ideals of the secular priest for the benefit of aspirants to the priesthood, and for the instruction of the laity generally, who sometimes have a poor opinion of the secular clergy and sometimes rather foolishly display their preference for regulars. The main part of the book seems to us to have been written in a workman-like fashion; but we have been seriously distracted from it by the last section, which is a not very pleasant argument concerning the priesthood and the religious life. In fact, so far as we are concerned, the sting of the book is in its tail. Are we expected to examine that part, or is it indecent of us to intervene? We have never felt so strongly the force of the adage that comparisons are odious; for we have disliked some of the author's comparisons intensely. We don't like to see him, from the exigencies of his argument, making general charges against the pre-reformation monks. We are sorry that he allowed himself to cite (from Purcell) some of Cardinal Manning's wilder statements. The Cardinal himself, when writing his *Eternal Priesthood*, had more sense than to print such things in that book, and we think Dr. Mahoney would have done better to have left them out of his. In regard to the authors pilloried in his appendix, we are not sure that they are given fair treatment. Vermeersch, for instance, is no fool and is not likely to have meant what the author supposes him to mean; his words will bear another and a just sense. Gury-