

REVIEWS

THE OXFORD MOVEMENT, 1833-1933. By Shane Leslie. (Burns, Oates & Washbourne; 5/-.)

Readers will find this book not devoid of interest and amusement, but they should beware of being misled by the publisher's description of it. Seldom can a blurb have been more misleading. We are told that 'it is doubtful if in all the multitude of books dealing, directly or indirectly, with that remarkable phase in English religious history, there is a more comprehensive or convincing survey than this.' But the author himself indicates more truly the kind of book he has written when he says: 'It is impossible to do more than throw out a spate of suggestion and anecdote in so slight a volume as this.' Nowhere is it clearly stated what the Movement was all about, and from 'the spate of suggestion and anecdote' many readers will probably gather that what the Tractarians were after was to bring back the Church of the Middle Ages.

The book is described as brilliant and illuminating and as stamped with scholarship. We should rather say that, Mr. Leslie having chosen the Movement as a subject on which to exercise his wit, the result, though not without interest and amusement, is as brilliant and illuminating as a series of not always successful squibs. Nor is the scholarship of a high order. When questions of theology are touched upon it is not always with a certain hand. And historical slips abound. Thus Gladstone is said (p. 150) to have kept converts back on the ground that 'Pope Honorius was condemned at the Council of Chalcedon.' The book was evidently put together very hurriedly.

L.W.

LES FILLES DE LA CHARITÉ. By Pierre Coste, Charles Baussan, Georges Goyau. (Desclée de Brouwer, Paris; pp. 256; 9 illust.; 12 frs.)

Three distinguished writers have combined to give a complete picture in outline of the history of the Sisters of Charity, and their work at home and in the foreign Missions. The result is an authoritative account within the reach of the general reader. Considering that a mere 'song of Simple Enumeration' would probably fill a book of this size, there is remarkably little of the catalogue about it. Its range is so wide that most people will find something to interest them, while there are pages that everybody would be the better for reading. The book is clearly printed and moderate in price.

A.E.H.S.