

THE ENGLISH CARMELITES. By Lancelot C. Sheppard. (Burns Oates; 6s.)

Wherever the name Whitefriars survives (as, for example, at London, Norwich, or Hull) there is a reminder of the many Carmelite foundations in this country. The first Carmelite General Chapter in Europe was held in England, and the most famous of their Priors General was an Englishman. Yet there is probably far less general knowledge of the Order than of the Franciscans or Dominicans. Mr. Sheppard's bibliography reveals one reason for this, a reason which no longer holds good now that his own book is obtainable. For here, in English, is an outline history of both the friars and the nuns, with some account of the liturgy and spirit of the Order. It is a short book for so large a subject, but the interest is well maintained and it is safe to say that a great deal of it will be unfamiliar to most readers. How many will see without surprise the two prints of the Carmelite habit in the thirteenth century, and learn that they were first known as Pied Friars? But it is not merely a matter of a picturesque past; one of the most remarkable things in the book belongs to the present. It is the list on pp. 92-3 of the foundations from St. Charles's Square during the last thirty years.

A.E.H.S.

THE HISTORY OF THE PARSON'S WIFE. By Margaret Watt. (Faber; 8s. 6d.)

A study of a subject on which hitherto no light has yet been thrown will always carry with it something of the attraction of the unknown. But the appeal of Miss Margaret Watt's book lies not only in its character as a work of research, but also in the interest and importance of the subject she has chosen. Her concentration on the human interest to be found in the study of individual lives and characters, though it reveals sympathy and understanding of her subject, has led her at times to under-estimate the historical importance of such lives as a whole. Attention is rightly drawn to the large number of distinguished men and women both in church and state who have in the past come from clerical homes, but more insistence might have been placed on the distinctive character given to the Anglican Church by the rectory system, the basis of which is 'a happy and harmonious marriage.'

The reader is presented with a series of attractive and vivid accounts of clerical households, from the first diffident entry of the parson's wife into history in the person of the second Mrs. Cranmer—a shadowy figure now remembered for her enforced journeys in a wooden box with ventilation holes in the lid—down to the childhood of the wife of Archbishop Davidson.

It is almost inevitable that the nineteenth century, being the richest in the materials Miss Watt has used, should have received the most detailed treatment; and in comparison the three preceding centuries