

## BLACKFRIARS

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**TIA BARBARITA.** Memories of Barbara Peart. (Faber and Faber ; 15/-.)

More than sixty years ago Barbara Peart left Ireland for the Argentine. Now, after these many years of varying fortune in South America, in New York, Texas and Old Mexico, she records the memories of her crowded and energetic life. It is an autobiography that makes good reading : it is unusual in content, naive in manner, and succeeds, on the whole, in being delightful entertainment.

She was married at the early age of seventeen to an Irishman who had settled in South America and was home in Ireland to find a wife. She married him because she liked adventurous living and horseback riding, and also because life in Ireland, what with several determined suitors, and one of them a dangerous fellow, had grown uncomfortably complicated. The picture she gives us of her early years, her marriage and life in the strange land of the pampas, is stimulatingly alive. When eventually her husband's South American venture proved a failure owing to an unhappy combination of bad luck and mismanagement, they returned to Ireland, and after a short stay, set out to start life anew, this time in North America. From that point the book seems to lack something of the fresh and eagerly personal quality of the first part ; to a certain extent we lose sight of the woman in what is perhaps an overabundance of incident. It is rather a pity, as the Tia Barbarita of later years is a more splendidly human figure than the girl and young wife. We have, however, as compensation a fascinating picture of Mexican life in a Mexico much more individual and spiritually remote from the rest of the civilized world than it is to-day. And then, of course, there is an earthquake, a flood, a plague and—inevitably—a revolution.

The book is written in the third person. She found she could be 'much more revealing under the faint disguise.' Tia Barbarita has contrived to be very intimately 'revealing' indeed. She thanks Air Commodore L. E. O. Charlton, who kept her steadfast in the labour of writing it out and patiently searched her memory 'to correct small discrepancies which the old are apt to neglect when reviewing a long life.' Doubtless if he were familiar with ecclesiastical penal procedure the tale of the dismissed Carmelite would have suffered some pruning. Her Uncle Henry (O'Loughlin), Bishop of Brooklyn, appears in a rather unpleasant rôle. She speaks of him as having formerly belonged to the diocese of Antrim in the North of Ireland,

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and suggests that she was acquainted with him and his old Antrim housekeeper in Ireland. Now this is a little strange. John Loughlin, who was Bishop of Brooklyn at the time, though born in Ireland, went to America at the age of six, was educated in America, and spent the whole of his life as priest and bishop in America. He was consecrated Bishop of Brooklyn in 1853, two years before Barbara's birth, and served the Church in that capacity till his death in 1891.

P.K.M.

**ALICE MEYNELL.** A Memoir by Viola Meynell. With ten illustrations. (Jonathan Cape. The Life and Letters Series; pp. 352; 4/6.)

The importance of the Meynell-Thompson-Patmore group in the development of English Catholic literature is not likely yet to be exaggerated. The present book is therefore welcome. A woman so intimately literary that her biographer records of her, 'It has often seemed to me that a history of her feeling for Shakespeare alone, could such a record be made, would leave not a great deal of importance to say about her, so much was that feeling at the foundation of her existence.' Alice Meynell yet managed to rear a large family who have done honour to the traditions it was her own task to foster. Incidents too often misrepresented, such as the origin of the sonnet, *Renouncement*, are dealt with in an authoritative and perfectly adequate manner. The treatment is frankly that of a daughter of her mother, so there is no false pose or humbug about the book; and the dangers of making the memoir too exclusively a family affair have been faced and overcome. Quotation is liberal and significant. That some of the chapters are a trifle over-condensed, a little crammed with incident and quotation, is a fault which has this virtue, of leaving something behind for a second reading.—(B.K.)

**A SONG OF WISDOM.** By Edwin Essex, O.P. (Hinckley: S. Walker; 3/6.)

These poems must have given great pleasure to the author when he composed them. They are full of simple and sincere emotion which here and there finds fine expression. He is not very successful when he tries to be epigrammatic, and his metres—often clearly imitative—sometimes falter badly. In the poem which gives the book its title, the metre is really ugly. There are, however, half a dozen charming poems here, each one simple and descriptive.—(P.D.F.)

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**DURBAR.** By Dennis Kincaid. (Chatto & Windus ; 7/6).

Messrs. Chatto and Windus continue to maintain their high tradition. *Durbar* marks a new development in the technique of the English novel and Mr. Kincaid's subtle characterisation emphasises the unique value of his work ; a study of the merging cultures of a modern Indian court.—(G.M.)

**ALEXANDER TOMLYN.** By Noel Macdonald Wilby. (Burns, Oates and Washbourne ; 6/-.)

**THE GATES ARE OPEN.** By Doreen Smith. (Sands & Co. ; 7/6.)

**RENDER UNTO CAESAR.** By John Night. (Washbourne & Bogan ; 7/6.)

No book in this group contributes to the merits of contemporary fiction. Those for whom pleasure in an abundance of historical detail can compensate for a lack of interest may appreciate *Alexander Tomlyn*, but the domestic reminiscences of *The Gates are Open* will inspire little enthusiasm. *Render unto Caesar* is a lurid story in the ' Family Curse ' tradition.—(C.B.)

**SERVANTS OF THE KING.** A Pageant of the Priesthood. By the Rev. Martin Dempsey, B.A. (Washbourne & Bogan ; 5/-.)

This book would seem assured of a generous welcome from a very wide Catholic public. The style, both homely and colourful, rises at times to real eloquence in this panorama of the priesthood. The stories move with a joyous sincerity all their own. Two characteristics of the book are a marked piety and a complete absence of humbug. Examples will be given of the second and rarer quality. ' Limited butter,' we are, needless to say, in the refectory of a seminary, ' bread in chunks, tea, water, milk, and sugar all previously mixed and now poured out from large tin teapots—such was the fare provided.' That is on p. 168. On p. 173, ' Do you remember, Dermot,' said Dick, ' the first night I came here? I was looking over that gate there, wondering if I dared cut and run for the trams that start for the City from the Canal Bridge.' We feel sure that there are many readers who would wish to meet these flesh-and-blood students. And yet through all these sketches of life in the priesthood there is the ever-recurring note of a devotional spirit. The story is always easy to follow, simple, direct and cheerful. A rare book.—(D.M.)

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CLIMBS ON ALPINE PEAKS. By H.H. Pius XI. Translated by J. E. C. Eaton. (Burns Oates & Washbourne; pp. 128; 3/6.)

The Pontificate of Pius XI gives a fresh interest to the three articles published over forty years ago by the Abbate Ratti in the *Rivista Mensile* and the *Bolletino* of the Italian Alpine Club. But if he had died curator in the Ambrosian his account of the ascent from Macugnaga would still mark a new development in Italian mountaineering and in their charm of detail these studies would have merited translation.—(G.M.)

FROM A CHAPLAIN'S LOG. By Edwin Essex, O.P. (Samuel Walker; pp. 146; 3/6.)

Fr. Essex has set down some of his experiences as a chaplain in the Royal Navy: details of life at sea, and of persons and things which came his way, all told with a fine power of description and with humour. He has contrived to impart to his readers something of that glamour of the sea and its effect upon the sailor, which will always remain a mystery to the mere landsman.—(E.M.)

THE HOLY YEAR 1933—1934. By C. C. Martindale, S.J. (Burns, Oates & Washbourne; pp. xvi, 112; Wrapper, 1/-; Cloth, 3/6.)

Father Martindale gives us many important thoughts to ponder during the Holy Year, and for many a year after. He sets out to show the mind of the Pope in proclaiming a Holy Year. Taking the four Jubilee Basilicas in turn, the author gives a short history of each, and suggests points of the Church's doctrine connected with it. The Lateran Basilica stands for repentance, repentance not only for our personal sins, but also for 'these social sins in which we have been, as it were, incorporated'—the evils done by man to his fellow-men throughout the centuries. St. Mary Major's recalls our faith in Mary the Mother of God and her son Jesus Christ, true God and true Man, one Person. St. Peter's on the Vatican conjures up authority—the Divine Authority of Christ, of His Church, of His Vicar the Pope, with a discussion of the opposing doctrines of Bolshevism and of Stateism. The Church is Active, Apostolic, Missionary, and must ever remain so in obedience to Christ's command. St. Paul's outside the Walls reminds us of the missionary spirit and of the wonderful advance in missionary endeavour during the reign of the present Supreme Pontiff.—(S.J.)

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Sound sense and intelligent spirituality inspire *On Paths of Holiness* adapted from the German of the Rev. Karl Eder, S.T.D., by the Rev. Frank Gerein, B.A., S.T.D. (Herder, 10/6), a volume of casual discussions on parochial and priestly life directed to the secular clergy. The English priest may find the excellent matter obscured by the foreign manner.—(V.W.)

DUPANLOUP. By Mgr. Dutoit. Collection 'Choisir' (Desclée de Brouwer; pp. 622; 15 frs.)

This book will be welcome to those who are interested in the history of the Church in France during the nineteenth century. It gives a short history of one of the greatest Bishops of the time, great not only for his country, but also for the Church at large. The matter is worthy of the attention of all those interested in education since Dupanloup was an authority on the subject. The book is well printed, and we may look forward to two future works in the same collection which are under preparation.—(D.J.S.)

CIRCULAR LETTERS OF REDEMPTORIST GENERALS. (Milwaukee: Bruce Publishing Co.; pp. 297; \$2.)

For those interested in the Redemptorists and their work, these Letters will be of value if only as illustrative of the spirit of the Congregation in our own times. The collection is permeated throughout with the spirit of the Institute as set forth by its Founder, St. Alphonsus, in his brochure, *The True Redemptorist*.—(G.T.)

THE MAN OF SORROWS. Chapters on the Sacred Passion. By Fr. Robert Eaton. With a Preface by Archbishop McIntyre. (Sands & Co.; pp. 373; 6/-.)

This third impression of Fr. Eaton's *Chapters on the Sacred Passion* will be welcomed by the many readers of the author's other spiritual works. These devout and graceful meditations set the whole of the Passion before us with a wealth of detail and insight into the Gospels which do not usually obtain in the many meditation books written on this subject.—(G.T.)

THE WAY OF THE CROSS. (Burns, Oates & Washbourne; 3d.)

Well presented in pleasing print. The left page contains a relatively large picture of each Station, while the familiar corresponding short meditation, prayer and verses from the *Stabat Mater* (Latin and English) occupy the right page. This book-

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let should be of special service to the sick who are unable to make the Stations in the ordinary way. The conditions for gaining the Indulgences attached to the Way of the Cross are set forth at the beginning of the book.—(S.J.)

L'EVANGILE DE MAMAN. (Desclée de Brouwer; pp. 196; 40 coloured illustrations from Leinweber; 1 map and 74 engravings; 1933; 35 frs.)

This book is intended to help mothers in using the Gospels when teaching their little ones to know and love Our Lord. Its use alone and not a mere cursory reading can bring to light the qualities of such a 'Guide.' It is artistically presented, on good paper, with clear print and enlivened by a great number of illustrations.

Besides the paintings, the book also contains a number of reproductions of photographs (scenes in Palestine, objects mentioned in the Gospels peculiar to the times, instruments of the Passion, etc.), which will help to hold the imagination. The text also contains a number of details not mentioned in the Gospels themselves, but established by Biblical science. The text is in the form of a conversation between the mother and her two children, which seems at times somewhat artificial; question and answer follow one another, inspired by the end in view rather than as the result of the emotion and curiosity which the unfolding of the story should arouse. Also we may add that the vocabulary seems in more than one place too difficult for the normal child of eight, not to mention one of five.

It is regrettable that the author has not drawn more from the psychological details afforded by the Gospels, which would render the story notably more impressive and educative. Let us quote as an example page 133, where the despair of Judas is related in too matter-of-fact and succinct a manner. There is not a word to stress the acute remorse which drives Judas to rid himself of the money. Does not such an omission leave untouched the soul of the story?—(S.J.)

NEW C.T.S. PUBLICATIONS. (38 Eccleston Square, S.W.1.; 2d. each.)

The second part of Cardinal Gasparri's *Catholic Catechism*, for children who have made their first communion, is now issued in pamphlet form. A helpful and very sensible little *Confession Book*, by M.S.K-B., contains a over-statement: 'We must go to Confession at least once a year. Every Catholic knows that.' In point of fact, according to the common

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teaching, the strict legal obligation only falls on those in mortal sin. A Jubilee handbook, *The Holy Year*, by the Rev. T. A. Atkins, will prove useful to pilgrims to Rome. It also gives the occasion for congratulating those responsible for C.T.S. pamphlet covers. A complete little biography of *St. Thomas of Canterbury*, by J. J. Dwyer, fills a gap. *English Saints*, by Dom Ievers, O.S.B., contains short lives of the more prominent. Mrs. Sutton's short story, *Shepherd Stock*, was worth reprinting from *The Catholic World*: mendelian Catholicism of a county family.—(T.O.P.)

SOMEWHERE STREET, by Ruth Cobb and Richard Hunter (pp. 40, 2/- paper, 3/6 cloth) is another children's book from Burns, Oates and Washbourne. Lively rhymes, engaging illustrations, big print. Recommended.—(T.O.P.)

Anticipating next year's Divine Office, Marietti (Turin, via Legnano, 23) publishes the Roman *Ordo* for 1934, 3 lire.—(P.Q.)

THE COMMANDMENT OF PURITY. By J. Creusen, S.J. (Rochdale: The Orphans' Press. Louvain: Museum Lessianum. Pp. 23. 6d.)

A valuable little pamphlet which delicately and clearly, firmly and sensibly, explains the rational and Christian virtue of chastity. Addressed to religious in the first place, it should prove most useful to all charged with the education of youth.—(T.G.)

DAS ARBEITSETHOS DER KIRCHE, by Dr. Johannes Haessle, has been translated into French by Étienne Borne and Pierre Linn under the title, *LE TRAVAIL* (Desclée de Brouwer. Pp. 356; 20 frs.). This important book, on the Catholic Philosophy of Labour, will be reviewed later.