

REVIEWS

in actual fact there is a liturgical apostolate in America which rivals any in Europe and is far superior to the attempts yet made in England. It has its source in the great Benedictine abbey of St. John, Minnesota. The work of these monks is not confined to carrying out the liturgy with due solemnity; they have realised that the liturgy is the one and only source of the true Christian spirit not for clerics alone, but for the whole Christian people, and that it is urgent, terribly urgent, that the Christian people should return to it. So they have made their abbey the meeting place of Catholics from all over America and every year they hold a liturgical week during which they deal with various problems of the apostolate. They send forth also a vigorous and unceasing flow of literature from their press. They publish every month a little magazine *Orate Fratres* which we can recommend, after eight years experience of it, as one of the best and most stimulating of its kind in print. It does not pretend to be academic or archaeological, and we can be thankful for that: archaeology is the death of liturgy. It sets out to answer the question, how I can live the liturgy during each season in an intelligent and real way, and it does so admirably. We hope it will be much more widely read in England. Among the products of their press we may mention translations of Dom Bauduin's *Liturgy the Life of the Church*, Abbot Herwegen's *The Art Principle of the Liturgy* and Dom Haering's *Living with the Church*—all three valuable books for instruction and use. Another most illuminating publication is *The Mass-Drama*, by Fr. William Busch. This is a practical guide to the Mass as the 'Community Drama of the Christ-Life,' i.e. as an action in which all present take part *as actors*. It is a very helpful work and its importance will be realised by all those who, faithful to the Pope's insistent call, are determined that the Mass shall be once again the supreme *common* act of worship of Christ's Mystical Body. We all need to become 'Mass-conscious': this book will assist us.

A.M.

CANTATE DOMINO. A collection of supplementary hymns, compiled and edited by V.G.L. (Liverpool: Rushworth & Dreaper; Words and Melody, 1/6; Accompaniments, paper, 5/-; cloth, 7/-.)

Everyone who has to deal with the problem of congregational singing will long ago have realised how large is the gulf between our present hymns with their tonic-and-dominant tunes and measured swing, and those of the Liturgy with their austere modal melodies and free plainsong rhythm, and have wondered how the gulf was to be bridged. Here is the very book with

BLACKFRIARS

which to begin the good work. It is of its nature supplementary and transitional, such is the intention of its editor. It contains one hundred and two hymns. There are Latin and English hymns almost without exception of great beauty (some are gems), words of dignity and praise, beautiful melodies graded from the measured Chorale to entirely plainsong tunes. There are very few even nineteenth century tunes, most are earlier and stronger. It is to be hoped that priests and choirmasters will take up this book, and so pave the way for the singing of the Liturgy.

F.M.

Marietti, the well-known Turin publishers (via Legano, 23) has just brought out a Roman Breviary *pro itinerantibus*, marvellously compact (8 x 14 cm.) and light (225 gr.), which makes practical use of detachable sections for propers of Saints and Seasons. The print is clear rather than elegant, the price moderate—52, 65 and 75 liri for the different styles of binding.—(P.Q.)

A grammar book that delights the eye is AN INTRODUCTION TO LITURGICAL LATIN, by A. M. Scarre. (Ditchling, St. Dominic's Press; pp. 208; 5/6.) It is recommended by the Master General of the Dominicans as an instrument for providing nuns and sisters with a working knowledge of the language of their community worship. Layfolk as well will find it useful. No roundabout way through classical, but a short cut to liturgical Latin. A practical book for the first year of novitiate.—(T.G.)

Pilgrims to Rome will be grateful for a well-advised publication, THE HOLY YEAR, by Dudley Wright. (Washbourne and Bogan; pp. 59; 1/6.) A straightforward account of the significance of the Jubilee, practical in its details on how to get to Rome and what is going to happen there.—(T.G.)

ART

EVERYDAY THINGS IN ANCIENT GREECE. HOMERIC, ARCHAIC, CLASSICAL. By Marjorie and C. H. B. Quennell. (Batsford; 21/-.)

We hear much in these days about the defence of the West, the necessity of maintaining the classical tradition, etc., which is said to be one of the unitive factors of our civilisation. The trouble is that with so many exciting and creative signs of a new age around us the 'classics' persist in seeming dead and fail to stir in the youthful mind little more than a museum interest. This is largely due, we think, to the one-sided way in