

THE QUEEN'S OWN. By Sister M. Assumpta O'Hanlon, O.P. (Linham & Shrimpton; Douglas Organ; n.p.)

This little book comes as a welcome and timely stimulus to follow the lead of Our Lady's Champions, the story of whose labours for the honour of the Mother of God is set before us in its pages. These champions are Mother Margaret Hallahan, O.P., St Grignon de Montfort, and Mary Potter. The book is written in an attractive and vigorous style. It should encourage readers to seek for more detailed lives of these three great servants of God.

If the book reaches a second edition some reference might be made to the following facts:

The canonisation of Saint Louis-Marie Grignon took place in 1947. (Even the dust-jacket here calls him only 'Blessed'.) The amalgamation of the Congregation founded by Mother Mary Hallahan with the four more recently founded Congregations now forms the Congregation of St Catherine of Siena. The Mother House is at Stone, and the Noviciate at Stroud. The Decree from Rome is dated 1929. In the Archdiocese of Birmingham the Tribunal of enquiry has been established and Articles drawn up for the Informative process of the beatification of Mother Margaret Hallahan. The Articles were drawn up in Rome in 1936. S.A.R., O.P.

CHRIST OUR LIGHT. By W. Stephenson, S.J. (Browne & Nolan; 8s.6d.)

There is more perhaps to be said in favour of unoriginal prayer books than is nowadays generally admitted. In a neurotic age—and we might as well admit that we live in one—human life is kept moving by alternate doses of sedative and stimulant. To say the least, we are in danger of becoming too dependent on such stimuli before we can pray. Baron von Hügel once said: 'I kiss my son not only because I love him but in order to increase my love'—or words to that effect. The same principle applies to prayer; love-making does in fact make love, because love is basically an act of the will, not a dizzy sensation. Certainly we need to learn how to pray—so did the apostles—but prayer like all art is learnt by practice. Fr Stephenson's book of meditations pays us the compliment of asking us to co-operate with the Holy Spirit in this practice; he offers little original stimulus for the imagination; he presents the fundamental truths of religion in traditional language. It may perhaps be said, even complained, that these meditations contain a certain amount of undigested theology. Well, if we must have stimulus for prayer, why not provide it by doing our own mental digestion?

GERARD MEATH, O.P.

AUX SOURCES DE NOTRE UNION DIVINE. By Chanoine Paul Thone. (Casterman, Paris; n.p.)

A slight book, best described as enlarged points for meditation on the Holy Ghost and the effects of his presence in us. Two criticisms: to write of the Holy Ghost, after Saint Catherine of Siena; as giving himself to us in 'L'obscur lumière des claires ténèbres'