

## BLACKFRIARS

professes peace and retrenchment (surely more Liberal than Whig) and has the courage of his opinions—he never lacks that—in deciding against the imminence of a new and terrible European war. The attribution, however, is truer of his philosophical and religious temper, which recalls in its way the assurance and waywardness of Lady Hester Stanhope, the classical frontages and chinoiseries of the period, *Judas Maccabeus* and *Tom Bowling*.

The reviewer is a sincere admirer and would not like to be set among “those venomous Roman Catholic journalists who are always abusing me as an enemy of their Church,” yet he has sometimes found Dr. Inge’s strictures on Rome more gastric than mental. A slight example: in one essay he deplores the inhuman Latin doctrine with regard to animals, while in another he finds at Toledo the lack of reverence amazing because one may see a dog curled up in the episcopal throne or a cat receiving the caresses of the worshippers at Mass.

The definition will not pass that a gentleman is never unintentionally rude, and anyhow the pungencies of Dr. Inge for the most part are agreeably stimulating and even his prejudices reveal the depth and height and breadth of his Christian philosophy. In the preface to this miscellaneous collection of essays written from his country retirement in Berkshire he indicates some of the lines of his recent thought. Now is the time, he thinks, for creating new Britains overseas, an opportunity we shall never have again. He distrusts the opposing ideologies struggling in Europe; fanaticism is the most cruel spirit in the world; fear comes next to it. He knows the value of myth but is justly severe to the anti-intellectual trend of modern thought and pays a tribute to the Christian philosophy he finds lucidly explained in the Roman Catholic Neo-Thomists. How much he can say in a few words! “When William James boasts that he has killed ‘that beast, Intellect,’ he might have spared his excitement if he had taken the trouble to find out what *Nous* meant to the Greeks, and *Intellectus* to the Latins.”

THOMAS GILBY, O.P.

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GOD’S WAY OF MERCY. By Vincent McNabb, O.P. (Burns Oates; 5/-)

We have learnt to expect from Father Vincent a freshness, and even originality, that sheds new light on and reveals unsuspected facets of otherwise familiar truths. In this volume of selected conferences we are not disappointed in our expectations. It is aptly dedicated to Gilbert Keith Chesterton, for Father Vincent shows that same penetrating insight into the hidden truths of the

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familiar and obvious which was the marked characteristic of his late friend. The conferences have, nevertheless, that defect which inevitably results from the cold-printing of the fresh-spoken word frozen stiff in a verbatim report. Speaking and writing are two separate arts; and Father Vincent is known to us as a master of both arts. We would gladly have heard these conferences spoken; but we would rather he had written them for publication. Yet if we could not have his wisdom in the more perfect settings, we are thankful to have it in this less perfect hybrid form. It is impossible to offer any detailed review of the good things contained in the twenty-six compartments of this treasure-chest. There are four main topics: Mercy, Trust, Hope, and Forgiveness. The general tenor is one of fine optimism and sympathetic encouragement, and the presentment often paradoxical: "I must confess I would never look at anything hopefully that didn't contain the idea of sin. That sounds ludicrous. . . . But . . ." This is a book that all will appreciate, and many will find immediately helpful.

H. J. C.

**PURGATORY.** By Bernhard Bartmann. (Burns Oates; 7/6.)

This book is the most satisfactory treatment of the doctrine in English. It is developed by a sound method. First the actual dogma as defined by Councils and Popes is given. We know then precisely what we must believe by divine faith. Then follow the source of the doctrine in the revealed data, in Holy Scripture and Tradition. The process of the development of the dogma—in this case from liturgical practice into definite statements. Finally the work of reason is shown in its attempt to harmonize the dogma with the rest of revelation, and to show how far philosophy can determine that the exigencies of the dogma are not unreasonable. In this respect Dr. Bartmann might have gone a little deeper into St. Thomas's explanation of the soul's knowledge after death. But his commentary on the Scriptural sources is excellent; and will save us from pretending to find "proofs" from texts which do not prove but only support. The whole work is built up on three truths: the holiness of God which can suffer no contact from impurity; the fact that "not all the dead have attained absolute purity"; and the mystical Body of Christ, the oneness of all the faithful with Christ suggesting the idea of intercession for the dead. It is one more work that helps us to realize how the synthesis of Catholic dogma has its living principle of unity in the truth of the mystical Body.

A. M.

**CAUSATION, FREEDOM AND DETERMINISM.** By Mortimer Taube, Ph.D. (Allen & Unwin.)

In this important work a new light is thrown on the problems of Freewill from the psychological point of view. The author

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traces modern scientific determinism to its origins in the writings of the seventeenth century philosophers, particularly Descartes, Malebranche, Locke, Leibnitz, Spinoza, Hobbes, and Hume, who maintained in their several ways that belief in the omnipotence and omniscience of God implied universal determinism with the consequent denial not only of freedom but also of true secondary causation. This theory permeated the physical science of the period in the guise of scientific determinism. Such expressions as "Uniformity of Nature," "Laws of Nature" and even "Scientific Determinism" had a theological significance and are now, or have been till recently, accepted as fundamental postulates of physical science, although their theological premise no longer enters into the structure of scientific theory. The difficulty of eliminating the concept of causation, however, led to its re-interpretation in a phenomenological sense as a succession of events implying a necessary connection between them. At the back of the antinomy between determinism and causation we may discern the rejection or ignoring of the scholastic doctrine of the real efficacy of secondary causes in which alone a rational solution of the antinomy of Divine Omnipotence and the free causal efficacy of finite existents is sought.

A. E.

TALES OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT. By Desmond Murray, O.P.  
(Alexander Ouseley; 2/6.)

In a series of very thoughtful and beautiful meditations Father Murray happily combines stories from Sacred Scripture and the lives of the Saints, adding many examples from his own rich store of antiquarian knowledge. We specially recommend the chapters on the Sanctuary Lamp, *Light Visible*, and the Altar, *Stones of Life*. There is an unfortunate misprint on p. 42 where "From the Exulter" should read "From the Exultet," the beautiful Preface sung by the Deacon on Holy Saturday at the lighting of the Paschal Candle. As a preparation for the festival of Corpus Christi one could not do better than read and meditate from this excellent little volume.

W. G.

A LITTLE BOOK OF PRAYERS FOR PEACE, taken from Liturgical sources and with the Imprimatur of the Archdiocesan Authority. (Sheed & Ward; 1/-.)

Successive Popes have called upon Catholics to join with them in begging of God the blessing of peace for the world, and all over the world that call is being answered. We cannot better unite ourselves with the prayer of the Church than by using the actual words of the prayers of the Church, and this little book enables us to do so. The prayers are taken from the Psalms, the Breviary, the Proper and Common of the Mass; the first prayer in the book is an adaptation of that used by Pope Benedict XV.

G. V.

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**SAINT FRANCIS DE SALES.** By Dr. Michael Müller (Professor of the University of Bamberg). (Sheed & Ward; 6/-.)

This is not a biography of the great bishop of Geneva but a careful analysis of his teaching as seen by a professor of Moral Theology. This should not however discourage the ordinary reader from buying a book apparently beyond his grasp. In fact the book is a very simple and clear exposition of the doctrine of one who was the kindest and most encouraging of saints. If the author seems to insist over much on the Saint's leniency in the matters of mortification and self-discipline in comparison with the older ascetic doctors such as St. Bernard and St. Antoninus, he has in reality no brief for humanistic errors. Francis had to deal with a world far different from that of the twelfth and fifteenth centuries. Men and women were hardier and more down-right in those earlier days, and passions were more violent in times more stark. Two hours of oral prayer such as St. Antoninus prescribed for his disciples and the continued recitation of the psalms ordered by the earliest Fathers of the Church were obviously necessary in days when the printing press had not brought spiritual reading within the power of any but the wealthiest and most educated. This point seems to have escaped the writer's notice. W. G.

**LIBERTY, ITS USE AND ABUSE.** Vol. II. By Ignatius W. Cox, S.J., Ph.D. (Fordham University Press; pp. 273; n.p.)

Vol. I established the basic principles of moral philosophy, here they are applied to man's individual and social life. A short chapter on International Ethics is added. Though the style is as unprepossessing as that of Aristotle's *Metaphysics*, this work would make a useful text-book for a study-circle. T. G.

**THIRDLY ABOUT THINGS** is the third illustrated magazine-catalogue of the Guild of SS. Joseph and Dominic, Ditchling Common, Sussex, from the Secretary of which it is obtainable on application. Besides information about their work and their products, there is plenty of the sound philosophy which produces them, both in an excellent preface and in some very wise *Notes on Making Chasubles and Silk Vestments*.

Publishers of Catholic books have lately been more than usually active in the praiseworthy pursuit of making important publications available in cheap editions. Messrs. Longmans have made three noteworthy additions to their *Second Spring Series*. **MAUD MONAHAN'S LIFE AND LETTERS OF JANET ERSKINE STUART** reaches a seventh printing at the price of 7/6. At the same price

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appears the late Dr. Adrian Fortescue's absorbing **THE MASS: A STUDY OF THE ROMAN LITURGY** with the addition of a critical foreword by Father Thurston, S.J., which not only brings the work up to date by some account of subsequent liturgical researches, but throws some illuminating sidelights on its "eccentric but extremely gifted" author. A still more enterprising addition to the series is the publication for half-a-guinea of the complete unabridged text of Wilfred Ward's classical **LIFE OF JOHN HENRY CARDINAL NEWMAN** in one volume.

Messrs. Sheed & Ward have been even more prolific. Father O'Connor's brilliant English rendering of Claudel's **THE SATIN SLIPPER** and Father D'Arcy's standard study of **THE NATURE OF BELIEF** are each now obtainable for 5/-. To the three-and-sixpenny *Ark Library* has been added Christopher Dawson's **PROGRESS AND RELIGION**, G. K. Chesterton's **WELL AND THE SHALLOWS**, Father Ronald Knox's **BARCHESTER PILGRIMAGE**, Henri Ghéon's **SECRET OF THE LITTLE FLOWER**, and Arnold Lunn's **A SAINT IN THE SLAVE TRADE**. Another very welcome reprint from the same firm is that of Father Knox's stimulating and thoughtful sermons on the parables, **THE MYSTERY OF THE KINGDOM**: a too little-known volume which, besides providing uncommonly good spiritual pabulum, contains a valuable and original line of apologetic for the evangelical witness to Catholicism.

## BOOKS RECEIVED

- ALLEN & UNWIN: *Metropolitan Man: The Future of the English*, Robert Sinclair (10/6).
- BOIVIN (Paris): *La psychologie de Condillac*, Georges Le Roy (30 frs.); *L'expérience de l'effort et de la grace chez Maine de Biran*, George Le Roy (50 frs.).
- BURNS OATES & WASHBOURNE: *The Catholic Epistles: Text and Commentary* compiled by Robert Eaton (5/-); *Seven Eyes of God: A Cycle of Mass Poems*, Norman Nicholas (1/-); *Mother Margaret Mostyn*, Sister Anne Hardman, S.N.D. (5/-); *Explanation of the Little Office of the Immaculate Conception*, T. E. Bird (2/6); *The Iniquitous Contract: An Analysis of Usury and Maldistribution*, J. L. Benvenisti (5/-); *What Jesus saw from the Cross*, A.-D. Sertillanges, O.P. (7/6); *Blessed Agnellus and the English Grey Friars*, Fr. Gilbert, O.S.F.C. (5/-).
- CAPE: *English Monks and the Suppression of the Monasteries*, Geoffrey Baskerville (15/-).
- CARY: *A Simple Unison Mass specially written for the use of Schools and Convents*, M. Nowell Smith (6d.).
- CENTENARY PRESS (G. Bles): *The Divine Christ*, A. E. Baker (8/6).
- COLDWELL (for Bruce, Milwaukee): *The Gifts of the Holy Ghost in the Dominican Saints*, Antoine Gardeil, O.P., tr. Anselm Townsend, O.P. (6/6).