

Blackfriars

THE COMING AGE AND THE CATHOLIC CHURCH: A Forecast by William Barry, D.D. Pp. 247. (Cassell; 7/6 net.)

Canon Barry in his eightieth year writes with all his old zest, surveying the past (1870—1929), and bidding us go forth and conquer. The enthusiasm for democracy is not impaired. 'Liberty at Washington, religion at Rome—these are the highest services that can be rendered to mankind.' "Catholicism" and "Democracy" are two Greek words, signifying the same thing; for it has been said, "The truth shall make you free, *Veritas liberavit vos.*" Thus is the reader challenged at the start, and many are the challenges thrown out in the course of these twenty-four essays. For Canon Barry touches an immense number of things and discourses on times past, present and to come with vigour and enthusiasm. No doubt astonishment, startled astonishment, will at times overtake the reader. For instance, to be told 'as regards the persons who shall govern, the Catholic Church is a free elective system; Catholics are as much members of a voluntary association as are the citizens of every true republic.' But then Canon Barry finds 'genuine Tribunes of the People, with unbounded authority, such men as Mussolini in Italy, Primo de Rivera in Spain, and most remarkable of all, in Turkey, which has abolished the Caliphate, a modernising Kemal Pasha.' But surely seven shillings and sixpence is too high a price for 247 pages of very large type?

J.C.

THE CHILD IN THE CHURCH. By Maria Montessori. Edited by Mortimer Standing. (Sands; 5/-)

This book explains how to apply the Montessori method to the religious training of children. This method attaches primary importance to the right environment, and the right environment for teaching religion to children is the life of the Church as seen especially in the sacred liturgy. The child is taught to know God by living the round of Christ's life in the circle of the Christian year: each truth must be lived before it can be explained. For example, the child is brought to the Baby in the crib and from the bended knees of the shepherds, from the star and the angels in the sky he learns that it is no ordinary baby. Only after a long time will he hear the word Incarnation. Children are easiest taught by doing things, touching and handling things, by singing and saying words accompanying the things done. A child learns first by touching, then by seeing and only lastly by hearing.