Blackfriars

FLORILEGIUM PATRISTICUM: Fasciculus xxx.

Here is No. 30 of a wonderful series of excerpts from the great writers of the Church, from ancient to medieval times. The series emanates from Bonn, and is edited by two Doctors in Theology-Dr. Bernard Geyer, Professor in the University of Bonn, and Dr. John Zellinger, Professor in the University of Munich. I call it wonderful, because it does, in me at least, excite wonder—this bold attempt to make people read something from the rich store which the Catholic Church has garnered down the ages. For these fasciculi, of some eighty pages each on an average, are mainly extracts, though occasionally certain short works are given entire. But the point is they are cheap and handy and excellently produced, and thus placed before a reader a few massive blocks he would never have dreamt of quarrying out for himself from the vast tomes. He may be induced to have a peep at the quarry. Thus I can readily imagine anyone to whom Bonaventure is merely a name wishing to read more of the man who wrote what forms No. V in this fascicule, Theologia una scientia; or No. VI, De Relatione philosophiæ ad theologiam; or indeed any of the five remaining sections of this admirable Prolegomena ad S. Theologiam so judiciously selected by Fr. Thaddeus Soiron, O.F.M., and now planted out in this flower-bed of solid and beautiful readingthe Florilegium Patristicum. O.F.M.

DIVISIO SCHEMATICA SUMMAE THEOLOGICAE S. THOMAE AQUINATIS AC TERTIAM PARTEM SUPPLEMENTI. Ad Usum Professorum atque Studentium. By Fr. Gerard M. Paris, O.P. (Turin—Rome: Marietti. Pp. 73; in 4to. Charta manufacta, 5 liras; editio oeconomica, 3.50.)

On entering the room of a student of St. Thomas you may sometimes see sheets of cartridge-paper stuck to the wall with drawing-pins and covered with what appears to be a great family tree going back almost to Adam. It is a chart of the whole Summa Theologica. To construct it was a matter of some difficulty—chiefly geometrical as the diminished script in odd sections shows, for the divisions are given by St. Thomas and expanded as he goes along at the beginning of the various Questions. But is is well worth the trouble, if only to expose the logic in variety of the vast structure and to fix its outlines in the memory. But for those who cannot afford either the wall or the exertion, Marietti has now published in an oblong quarto such a scheme, but broken necessarily into pages.

TC