

Book Reviews

THE MENDICANT OF LOVE AND OTHER LYRICS. By Mary St. Thomas. (Dublin : The Talbot Press; 1/- net.)

These verses have certainly the virtue of sincerity, and we can well believe that the author felt and meant every word she wrote. Most of them deal with religious subjects. Texts are taken from the Scriptures, amplified, paraphrased, and sometimes given an unexpected twist of meaning. The poem entitled 'Surge, tolle grabatum tuum et ambula' is a fair example of the booklet's contents.

' You've made your bed, and on it you must lie,
'Tis told us when we shape our lives awry—
And oftentimes we tell ourselves the same,
Shelt'ring the feeble will 'neath craven blame—
But Christ, the strong and tender, says not so
But ' Rise, take up thy bed,
Be of good cheer and go
The way that I have traced for thee to go.'

Perhaps there is a deeper sermon in those lines than the writer dreamed of. But every poem is full of simple suggestion, the product of a meditative soul.

A pleasant shilling's worth.

E.E.

WHISKY. By Aeneas Macdonald. (Porpoise Press; 5/-.)

The book we review would have cost proportionately one shilling and sixpence in the days when first we heard that Glenlivet was justly renowned for pure faith and pure whisky; a truth, if at most implied, not stated explicitly by Aeneas Macdonald. The meek could attain the pure in those days, perhaps never more fitly than in a still remoter station: Talisker. There the nectar of those divine people, the historical Scots, preserved among its aromata all those of the loveliest of islands.

Yes, we weigh in either hand a third of a bottle of whisky and Whisky; by Aeneas Macdonald; Porpoise Press; five shillings, wondering which will do us more good. The author himself might waver; and yet undoubtedly there are those living who would presume to decide for us the question out of hand. Others, true well-wishers, including our physician, nay, even St. Paul, would perhaps (it is a delicate decision) favour the alternative counsel.

Isolating one rubric of this rich and valuable book, the Geography of Whisky, we wonder at the four regions, each watered