

BLACKFRIARS

LITURGIE UND PERSÖNLICHKEIT. By Dietrich von Hildebrand.
(Anton Pustet, Salzburg 1933; KM. 3.50).

In these days of the progress of the Liturgical Movement, a book like this which considers the Liturgy in a philosophical and spiritual light is only too welcome, for there are many who in their anxiety to find what they can 'do for the Liturgy' are apt to forget what the Liturgy can do for them.

This book is a study of the Liturgy in relation to the individual, as forming man on the basis of his true nature before God, as a fulfilment of man's necessity of a conscious and explicit glorification of God and as an ordered direction of his desires towards Truth. The true function and strict purpose of the Liturgy, moreover, are carefully examined at the beginning and the elements of the spiritual formation of the real man, realizing to the full the capacities of his nature, are discussed together with the manner in which the Liturgy fulfils man's aspirations, perfects his activities, and moulds his personality in the truest sense.

The thesis then, on the basis of this formation of personality in contact with the world of values, is beautifully worked out in the several aspects of the Liturgy; in each case the aspect being first analysed as a formative element in man, and then shown to be abundantly expressed in the Liturgy itself. This is always very happily exemplified by numerous texts from the Missal and Breviary, usually both in Latin and German, or else explained by the Liturgical structure of the Mass or Office itself. To give the headings of these chapters would only lead to misunderstanding, for they are somewhat enigmatic and only become really clear in the light of the argument that follows. This is a notable feature throughout: the important terms used are always very carefully distinguished and explained at the beginning of a discussion.

The whole work is pervaded by the characteristic enthusiasm of the author, and there is a freshness of thought, together with philosophical insight and a real spiritual help to those whose endeavour it is to make their prayer the prayer of 'the praying Christ.'

S.E.B.

PULPIT AND PLATFORM ADDRESSES. By Archbishop Downey.
(Burns, Oates & Washbourne; 5/-).

Without any suggestion of flattery we may apply to Archbishop Downey what he has himself said about the late Bishop Burton: 'he was that very rare and choice product of nature, a born orator' and 'he did much in a practical way to remove our reproach of crippled scholarship and to raise the cultural tone