

MY FRIENDS THE SENSES. By Charles-Damian Boulogne, o.p. Translated by Jane Howes. Foreword by Gerald Vann, o.p. (P. J. Kenedy and Sons, New York; \$3.)

Here is a book in the high tradition of the *philosophia perennis*: a romantically treated discourse on the five senses which serve so humbly yet so necessarily the spiritual part of man. Père Boulogne deals first with sight, hearing and smell, as 'grasping from afar'; then of taste and touch as 'direct contact'; finally of movement, play and the dance, all with an undercurrent of the theology of the divine union established by creation between the material and the immaterial which God has joined together and only heresy and folly would pull asunder.

Working out his theme with a certain poetry, and a touch of humour, even of whimsicality, he reaches out to many related topics—the intuitive-ness of taste, especially when it means the analogous appreciation, not that of the palate; the place of music in life; the meaning of handicrafts and the mediation of the hand between the artefact and the soul and person of the artist—a holy thing all but smothered in a mechanized civilization; the comprehensive function of touch and many of its aspects—among other things, how the pride of the athlete is an innocent and healthy pride, while that of the intellectual is dangerous when it is not damnable; and the wisdom of the Church in all these matters.

The translation could have been a little more polished, but never offends as do so many. Fr Gerald Vann, o.p., contributes a preface admirably epitomizing the supernaturalized humanism of which he is so well-known and competent an exponent.

SILVESTER HUMPHRIES, o.p.

IN THE TRACK OF THE GOSPEL. By Aloysius Roche. (Burns Oates; 15s.)

It is almost an insult to review this book in a few lines, for Fr Roche's 'Outline of the Christian Apostolate from Pentecost to the Present' is a really remarkable example of potted history. One just wonders how he could have condensed nineteen hundred years into 190 pages. The narrative is lively in style. Here is a book which should find a place in every school library. At the same time it is indispensable to the enquiring student of history who needs information in a hurry. In the words of the 'blurb' on the dust-jacket, this is 'an enthralling narrative which once taken up is hard to put down'. This popular account of the missionary activities of the Church deserves to find its way into all parts of the English-speaking world, and it is probable that it may yet be translated into other languages. It is more than an example of painstaking scholarship: it is a work of genius.

P.F.A.