

has had on the men of Barra; and points out 'the truth that the majority of parishes in the Highlands and Islands are sinecures' in which there is little but very routine activity. Several readable chapters, especially those on industries, health and education, are marked by this fidelity to facts and raise in an intelligent way problems of more than local interest and importance.

Unfortunately there are long sections in which the author digresses into history, philosophy, and political theory. These are heavy, often wearily involved, based apparently on inadequate knowledge of the things discussed; and when they are apologetic often missing the point, as when the charge that Barra's religion is superstitious is met by proving that Celtic paganism has scarcely touched it. Not even the most rabid partisans have tried to connect Celtic paganism and the Mass; and it is the Mass they mean chiefly when they talk of the paganism of Barra. Several other things, such as a reference to Finn leaning on *her* elbow, to 'reliable records of the religious history of the Columban era from the accounts given by Adamnan,' and some astonishing simplifications of Scottish politics, all make one wonder whether the author may not have lost touch with Scottish things outside Barra. A most inadequate chapter on poetry and literature is fortunately lost on the English reader, as the thesis is supported by numerous untranslated quotations in Gaelic. The book is interesting, however, even in its faults, which are typical of a considerable section of educated Highlanders at the present time.

A.R.

THE DOMINICANS. By the Rev. C. J. Cummings, O.P. (Austrian C.T.S.)

A pamphlet calculated to win vocations to the Order whose past glories and strength, present ideals and commitments alike cry out for labourers to the harvest. A veritable guide and gazetteer to the Order down the ages and through the world, surely useful as an introduction, in spite of the defects (over-statement, some inaccuracy, occasional sectarianism) natural to its genre.

C.R.

A PRIMER OF MORAL PHILOSOPHY. By Henry Keane, S.J. (Catholic Social Guild, Oxford. 1s. 6d.)

The two previous editions of Fr. Keane's well-known Primer being exhausted, the Catholic Social Guild have decided to bring out a third edition. They here offer us Parts I. and II. of the original work. We understand that the remainder, which deals with more specifically sociological questions, is to follow, after it has been revised and expanded.

A.L'E.