

TWELVE TALES OF THE LIFE AND ADVENTURES OF SAINT IMAGINUS.
 Edited by Frances Margaret McGuire. With Illustrations by
 Betty Arnott. (Sheed & Ward; 6s.)

Here are some delightful and not wholly imaginary tales about a wholly imaginary saint. Imagus is an ageless type of a certain very real and very lovable kind of holiness; he is a composite of Columbanus, Francis of Assisi, Vincent Ferrer, John Bosco and many others of their ingenuous and largely inimitable brand of sanctity. The hero of these tales is found at one time in a medieval village and at another amongst the skyscrapers of a modern city, and is obviously equally at home in either. The stories themselves show a whimsical authenticity, whether St Imagus is encouraging the guardian angel of an aviator or accepting a rebuke from a dog, doing an unusual financial deal with a stockbroker or having a sympathetic word with St Jerome's lion. It is a truly joyous volume, attractive not only in its subject matter but also in its layout, its type and its delightful illustrations. H. J. C.

SAINTS BY REQUEST. By Joan Windham. (Sheed & Ward; 6s.)

This is a vintage wine that needs no bush, for it comes from the *Six O'Clock* bin. Even the author's mild prefatory apology for her 'alleged indiscriminate use of capital letters' is unnecessary. Her technique is perfect for its purpose, except perhaps in the matter of historical accuracy. One wonders, for example, whether the poetic licence required by the technique would justify the introduction of Franciscans amongst the first followers of St Dominic. But perhaps this is being unduly fussy under the circumstances. The word pictures (if not the illustrations) of the fifteen saints in the present volume are as vivid and authentic as those of its two forerunners. That is very high praise. H. J. C.

THIS AGE AND MARY. By Rev. Michael O'Carroll, C.S.Sp., D.D.
 (The Mercier Press; 6s.)

Père Garrigou-Lagrange in his introduction to his *De Deo Uno* (1938) added an excellent essay on 'Theology and the Interior Life'. The Irish Holy Ghost Fathers have now given us several books which embody the solid principles of this essay. The works of the late Fr Edward Leen have found many enthusiastic readers. The same spirit of *sapida sapientia* is carried on by Dr O'Carroll in this collection of twenty-seven papers on Marian theology. A good test might be made on what is the longest section in the book (pp. 58-70) on the 'Mediatress of All Graces'. Here is a debate on our Lady's mediation which is quite modern. It has been going on for the past twenty-five years among the theologians. Can it be taken out of its technical forms and presented successfully to the intelligent laity? Yes, Dr O'Carroll does bring it off and we are grateful.

Other essays on the 'Immaculate Heart', on the 'Queen of the

Legion', and the 'Queen of Ireland'—the title given by Pius XI in his personal message to the memorable Eucharistic Congress of 1932—show the justification of the title 'This Age and Mary'. But even when he is explaining the traditional doctrine, the author has a freshness of exposition that immediately arrests our attention and his application to modern conditions is never forced but flows easily and naturally from the great truth. These essays have two good qualities. They are objective, avoiding the deviations of sentimental lyricism, and they are universal in the sense that they are satisfying deductions from clearly expressed universal principles. It is in this way that true piety is nourished. P. J. F.