

## *Blackfriars*

more delightful to read than a fascinating book, such as this is, about our English countryside? A word must be said in praise of the exquisite illustrations.

F.M.

**WHENCE THE BLACK IRISH OF JAMAICA?** By Joseph J. Williams, S.J. (New York: The Dial Press, 1932; \$2.)

The object of this slim volume of some seventy pages is to account for the well-known fact that in Jamaica large numbers of the negroes bear distinctively Irish names. The author brushes aside the usually accepted explanation of this; namely, that the slaves of former times were largely called by the family names of their masters. He holds that these 'Black Irish,' as he calls them, are the descendants of the white slaves deported from Ireland and elsewhere by Cromwell and others. To our mind his thesis is unconvincing. He makes no attempt to get over the obvious difficulty that those about whom he writes are mostly negroes of the most full-blooded African type and without the features or complexion which indicate an infusion of Caucasian blood. And what he says does not at all square with a phenomenon familiar to every one who has lived in that other West Indian island, Barbados. In Barbados is a distinct and very prominent race of people (there is a colony of them in Grenada too) popularly called 'Red-Legs.' They are mostly the lowest kind of agricultural labourers, all absolutely white, and with European features, but diseased-looking from constant inter-marriage. And men are accustomed to point to them as the lineal descendants of the Cromwellian deportees. It is incredible that the Red-legs of Barbados and the so-called Black Irish of Jamaica should be of the same stock—Nature does not work like that.

F.R.B.

**THE CATHOLIC LINEAGE.** By the Rev. L. Rumble, M.Sc. (Burns, Oates & Washbourne, Ltd.; 3/6.)

This book contains twenty historical sketches of saints, from every age and every class of the Church. The facts are enshrined in a picturesque framework. Each saint as it were walks out of the Family Album of the Church to talk to the inquiring priest. It is a pity that controversy of the old-fashioned kind should have been allowed to obtrude. But once on his way the author shows a lively and vivid style.

C.C-E.