

applause of BLACKFRIARS. The preface to July, however, brings a note of pain with the announcement that the multiplicity of his occupations causes the venerable editor to leave in other hands the continuance of this compilation. Mr. Attwater indeed promises in his foreword to follow the general lines his revered predecessor has indicated, and one may therefore confidently look forward to the work becoming as popular as the original, especially if a cheaper and more portable edition is subsequently issued. Certainly the references to fuller sources of information at the end of each biographical sketch are beyond all praise and this addition alone would suffice to make the work a necessity in every Catholic library. On their first appearance nearly a century ago our forefathers so welcomed these *Lives of the Saints* that there was scarcely a Catholic family in the land who did not possess them in the larger or smaller editions, nor did the books themselves lack the familiar marks of diligent and constant perusal. The good effect on the rising generation must have been incalculable and we look for a hardly less gratifying result now that they are coming to us again in a modernised garb. Where there is so much to praise it may not be invidious to signal for correction in the future cheap popular edition we so confidently anticipate, a few blemishes due apparently to hasty proof-reading. Taking at random St. Vincent de Paul: he 'landed at Aigues-Mortes near Marseilles . . . ' p. 260, and though the expression is Butler's own we are tempted to feel that a little of the 'meticulousness' Father Thurston charmingly deprecates would not here be amiss. No allusion appears to our saint's relations with the Visitandines and St. Francis of Sales, nor to St. Vincent de Paul's letter to Pope Alexander VII soliciting the canonisation of the saintly prince-bishop of Geneva. On p. 264 a quotation makes our saint, 'by nature . . . very subject to anger.' If this is a translation of *prompt à se mettre en colère* which to the French mind gives merely the impression of hastiness or impetuosity, we should not hesitate to call it 'exaggeration.'

These, however, are but insignificant slips which serve to bring out the magnitude of the labour involved in a work so creditable that it deserves assuredly, like the first volumes, a whole century of existence.

T.O'C.

MAGNIFICAT. By René Bazin. (Burns, Oates & Washbourne, Ltd.; pp. 244; 7/6.)

This novel has all the qualities that M. Bazin's readers have learned to expect from him. The hero's vocation took him from

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a Breton farm, first to the war, then to the Seminary, and at last to the Paris 'red zone,' with which Père Lhande has familiarized us. Anna's love for him meant sacrifice; but the reader gains, for it keeps the story centred round the farm, and that is the best part of the book. It is a translation, though neither the title-page nor, except very rarely, the translation, gives any hint of this.

A.E.H.S.

THE IRISH WAY. Edited by F. J. Sheed. (Sheed & Ward; 6/-.)

This book may be described as an answer expressed in terms of Irish sanctity to the question, 'What is a Saint?' It contains studies of eighteen of Ireland's 'unusual ladies and gentlemen.' The list beginning with St. Patrick and ending with Matt Talbot includes canonized saints, martyrs, missionaries, bishops, priests, nuns, a lay-brother and a labourer. The editor tells us that he did not choose the subjects. He simply selected the writers, explained the idea to them, and asked them to write on whom they wished. Half the subjects perhaps would find a place in a dozen similar collections, but the other half represents a purely personal choice of the writers. The list will not then satisfy everyone, but no one will deny that it is representative. The fifteen writers, men and women, lay and clerical, have done their work very well indeed.

C.N.L.

HAPPY ENDINGS. By Noel Macdonald Wilby. (Burns, Oates & Washbourne, Ltd.; pp. 89; illustrated; 2/-.)

Six pleasantly written stories of English Catholics in pre-Reformation and penal times.

THE OXFORD MOVEMENT: by the Rev. Henry Browne, S.J.; pp. 40. **CHRIST THE KING:** by the Rev. John O'Connor; pp. 20. **THE NEW PAPAL STATE:** by Benedict Williamson; pp. 28. **ST. BERNARDINE OF SIENA:** by the Rev. Dominic Devas, O.F.M.; pp. 32. **LUDOVICO NECCHI, a Leader of Catholic Action:** by Mgr. Olgiati; translated from the Italian by the Rev. Henry Louis Hughes, B.A., D.Litt.; pp. 72. **THE ORDER OF STANDING AND KNEELING AT MASS AND OFFICE;** pp. 27. (London: Catholic Truth Society, 38-40 Eccleston Square, S.W.1. 2d. each.)