

REVIEWS

good: it is a just criticism that the films of Fritz Lang, though technically able, show only a superficial vision: and we recommend especially the studies of Pabst, Clair and Chaplin.

A.M.

NOTICES.

THE ADVENTURES OF THE BLACK GIRL IN HER SEARCH FOR GOD.
By Bernard Shaw. (Constable; 2/6.)

This 'delightful little phantasy,' as *The Times* calls it, is theologically a piece of material blasphemy. As though it is curiously shallow, and Mr. Shaw would be one of his myops but for the humour and spirit of his sentiment. Like a minor musician of the eighteenth century, he can repeat himself, but he never fatigues; he may be tinkly, but he is always bright.

T.G.

GUY DE FONTGALLAND. By Lawrence McReavy. (Alexander Ouseley; 3/6.)

The modern Catholic might despair of sanctity in view of the austerities of earlier saints. Guy, dying a saint at the age of eleven, will restore confidence in this respect with his Meccano, his butterflies and his bannister-sliding. He was a holy child devoid of the severe precocity of many such. This life of him would have been more attractive had it been told with less comment.

C.P.

BY FANCY'S FOOTPATH. By Enid Dinnis. (Sands; 3/6.)

The twelve illustrated stories in this collection are reproduced from an American Catholic magazine. The stories themselves, told with the author's characteristic charm, have survived the transition into book form, but the illustrations are unmistakably a product of ecclesiastical journalism. An unexpected sarcasm at the expense of Catholic doctrine mars one of the tales.

C.B.

I PROTESTANTI ALLA CONQUISTA D'ITALIA. By Igino Giordani. (Milan: *Vita e Pensiero*; pp. 143; 3 lire.)

An account, with statistical details, of the growth of the various non-Catholic bodies in Italy, and their activities.

I TEMPI E GLI UOMINI PREPARARONO LA 'RERUM NOVARUM.'
By Mario Zanatta. (Milan: *Vita e Pensiero*; pp. 149; 3.50 lire.)

An historical sketch of the development of the movement for social reform in the various countries of Europe, from the time

BLACKFRIARS

of Kettler, Mermillod and Manning to *Rerum Novarum*. The book forms a useful introduction to the study of the encyclical, as it throws much light on its origins and immediate applications.

L'INQUISITION. By Jean Schoonjans. (Brussels : Editions de la Cité Chrétienne; 1932; 12 fr.)

The Inquisition will always be a happy hunting ground for ecclesiastical historians. It is dangerous to deal with it in so short a space as in this book, which, if anything, errs on the side of condemnation. It is a pity that the author, in having these five public lectures published, did not add the references to quotations—there are only two. The lecturer makes a little too much of what he calls the *bon sens Belge*. Philip II is painted perhaps a little too black.

D.J.S.

The success of Messrs. Burns, Oates and Washbourne's new CHILDREN'S BOOKS is assured if they keep to the standard set by the three to be noticed. There is intelligent direction behind them: nothing mawkish or prim; freshness not taken for angelic virtue, nor nuisance for sin. THE STOUT EFFORT (by Faith Cope Morgan, pp. 312, 17 plates; 7/6), so baptized with champagne, was a large Ford lorry which took four people on an adventurous journey from Northern Nigeria across to Kenya and down to the Cape. Toughness, too, is not absent from ALL ABOUT SELINA (by Cecily Hallack, illustrated by Robin, pp. 146, 5/-). Baptism had left this nice little hussy of nine a handful for governesses until Miss Brown arrived, also a terror, with her efficiency and man-tailored clothes. Still, she could tell the amusingest tales. MR. MANNERS (by Rose Henniker-Heaton, illustrated by Daphne Jerrold, pp. 138, 5/-), himself was rather a fusspot, but his six children more than make up for him. A dose of instruction on manners that children will not mind taking a bit. Three obvious presents these, if the reviewer can bring himself to part with them.

T.O.P.

THE SAINTS' ANIMALS' ANNUAL. Compiled by Cicely Hallack. (Burns, Oates & Washbourne; 4/6.)

This delightful book, well illustrated and marvellously cheap, should be in every nursery. (But why an added syllable in the first lines of two of G.K.C.'s poems?')

M.B.

SONGS FOR THE SIMPLE. By Agnes Mary Wheller. (Burns, Oates & Washbourne; 2/6.)

Show capacity and poetic feeling, but more piety than either of these.

B.J.

REVIEWS

THE CATHOLIC DIARY FOR 1933. Twenty-fifth year of issue. (Burns, Oates & Washbourne; 1/- cloth; 2/6 leather.)

THE CATHOLIC ALMANAC, 1933. Compiled by the Editor of 'The Catholic Directory.' (Burns, Oates & Washbourne; 2d.)

Remarkably cheap and comprehensive. The almanac contains much varied and useful information, and the diary a suggestive quotation for each day. M.B.

COMMENCEMENTS D'UNE VIE. By François Mauriac. (Paris : Bernard Grasset ; pp. xv, 30; 9 frs.)

This is a slight book, little more than a pamphlet, but all that comes from the pen of François Mauriac, of the new Mauriac, the one that began from the time of *Souffrances et Bonheur du Chrétien*, is worth reading. The ways children think and respond to the world about them are lands almost unknown to us, whose own childhood days may be forgotten. Therefore such a glimpse as this which M. Maurice gives us is all the more welcome. What of the prayers learnt in childhood? 'Paroles de feu, qui marquent un cœur pour la vie. Bien loin que la religion ait enténébré mon enfance elle l'a enrichie d'une joie pathétique.' Which, by the way, does not mean pathetic. This should make masters think: 'Leur justice était redoutable parce qu'elle était mystérieuse; des peccadillos entraînaient des privations de sorties et des fautes plus graves n'amenait pas les catastrophes attendues.' But there are many casual remarks of interest; and anyone who has read *Le Nœud de Vipères* must be interested; for M. Mauriac promises to be a great Catholic writer; not that he will write 'apologetic' novels—heaven forbid. He writes of life faced with the fact of Jesus, life under the full light of truth, and not with eyes unseeing in the fog of half-truths and despair. C.C.-E.

LORD JOHN. By Sophie Maud. (Sands & Co.; pp. 300; 6/-)

A tale of England and France. The hero and his brother, sons of a hard-living English nobleman, are eventually led to the Faith, in John's case by the blessed Grignon de Montfort. One learns much of the life of the time, especially at the court at Versailles. Although somewhat disjointed, there are many delightful passages. J.B.B.

There is a new book of double interest to the Catholic who is concerned with poetry, POETRY OF T. S. ELIOT, by Hugh Ross Williamson (Hodder & Stoughton; 5/-). It is of interest to the Catholic because of the treatment of Mr. Eliot's

BLACKFRIARS

religious views and vision. Nowadays there is no reason to suspect a writer of being on the road to Rome because he takes off his hat to the Faith. He may merely be taking a constitutional and giving his brains an airing. But so neat a sentence as this: 'Protestantism is a half-way house where one takes refuge because of that disinclination to think the matter out to a conclusion,' suggests a certain impatience with sitting in a shelter on the front. Still, that is Mr. Ross Williamson's affair. Our affair is this lucid book about a poet whose obscurity is fashion-making. If you have found Mr. Eliot's poems impenetrable as the jungle, go through them with Mr. Williamson. He knows the paths and will take you to meet Mr. Eliot himself. You set out with a prejudice against a poet who can only be comprehensible—except for bright intervals—to those who have had a remarkable good literary and classical education. But so excellent a guide is Mr. Williamson that you shut the book not wholly disinclined to agree that the fruit of Mr. Eliot's thought is worth all the hard travelling through the undergrowth of his symbolism.

C.H.

THE DIAMOND KEY AND OTHER STORIES. By Noel MacDonald Wilby. (Burns, Oates & Washbourne, Ltd.; pp. 90; 2/-.)

Seven simple stories for girls, each with a strong Catholic moral. The first and last are the best; the others are not up to the author's level.

A.E.H.S.

ON THE CONTINUITY OF ENGLISH PROSE. By R. W. Chambers. (Oxford University Press; Early English Texts Society; pp. 174; 6/-.)

The introduction to the Harpsfield life of Blessed Thomas More has a permanent value. We are glad that so much of it should have been reprinted as a monograph and so assured of a wider public. Mr. Chambers is singularly free from the conventions of literary history, and many of his conclusions are open to dispute, notably his high estimate of early eleventh-century culture and late fifteenth-century devotion, but all his work is characterised by a sanity of judgment and a strong sense of prose.

J.M.