

Blackfriars

by absorption. Dr. Addison's volume is not exactly fascinating, but as a thoughtful and sympathetic study, obviously the fruit of wide reading, and based on a thorough familiarity with the *mémoires pour servir*, it will no doubt retain an assured place in the literature of the subject. We venture to suggest that it might have been well to give the English of German terms and phrases. And we quote this pregnant sentence of Dr. Addison: 'As the history of Christendom abundantly testifies, where primary principles diverge it is impossible to expect collaboration, even in the practical pursuit of allied ends.'

E.J.

MARRIAGE. From the French of Raoul Plus, S.J. (London: Burns, Oates and Washbourne, Ltd.; pp. 95; 3/6.)

We welcome this terse and direct little book on the rights and duties of marriage. In the second part, on the preparation for marriage, some of the remarks are more in accord with French than English convention. Perhaps their sentiment is a little too expressly elevating for our tastes. For instance, the young officer who writes to his dear Edwige: 'From the bottom of my heart I assure you that it would be an excellent thing if you entered a convent.' And at least once you feel the grind of an unnecessary brake: 'Any familiarity serving to prepare for, or to complete, the marriage act—so long as this is normally performed—is allowed. Evidently, however, it is more perfect not to go beyond what is strictly necessary for the purpose of the act' (p. 25). And by this the author means the begetting of children. Good practice can be bad theory. See *Wowsers*.

T.G.

LEAVES FROM LIFE. By Dr. E. J. Dillon. (London: J. M. Dent & Sons, Ltd., 1932; pp. 843; 7/6.)

Essays and stories—shockers many of them—based on the experiences of a veteran journalist, university professor, man of affairs. The period is the end of the nineteenth century, when fashionable ladies swished a glittering way to the opera and Russian princes, fur-coated and distinguished, made the round of the resorts of Europe. The scene changes from Budapest, to St. Petersburg, Vienna, Paris, Frankfort. The atmosphere is reproduced, you raise cups of a refreshing beverage to your lips, dance on the light fantastic toe, and drive out to the country in a barouche to plunge your soul in the beauties