

tematically by Catholics and others for Christian unity, there is an appalling mass of indifference, often due to ignorance: and the ignorance must be largely blamed on the devotees of words like 'oecumenicism'. Father Keldany does much to remedy this when he states the fundamental facts in plain unpretentious language. While he shows clearly the duty that every Catholic has to his fellow Christian, he warns against superficial meanness and good-fellowship unsupported by prayer. 'It is not the spirit of unity which is required, but the Unity of the Spirit'. And that is the spirit of this wholesome pamphlet: prayer, first, last and all the time.

GERARD MEATH, O.P.

SAINT UNDER SAIL. By George Burns, S.J. (Burns Oates; 5s.).

A life of St. Francis Xavier for boys, vigorously written and happily free from the archness still too often thought necessary in religious writing for the young, *Saint Under Sail* is in the Martindale tradition. Which is to say that it is very good indeed.

SPLENDOUR OF SORROW. By Eddie Doherty. (Sheed & Ward; 4s. 6d.).

ALL YE THAT PASS BY. By W. Bernard Dyer, O.S.C. (Burns Oates; 2s. 6d.).

It is not surprising that the war years should give us an increasing number of books dealing with the aspect of Our Lady's universal mediation represented in the Liturgy by the two feasts of the Seven Dolours. Mr. Doherty—described on the wrapper as 'a lively, alert newspaperman'—is assisted by several of the saints in his contemplation of these Mysteries. Fr. Dyer is concerned to indicate something of the light the Sorrows throw upon the doctrine of the Mediatrix.

D.M.

THE HOLY FAMILY. Rev. Denis O'Shea, C.C. (Gill & Son: 7s. 6d.).

This unpretentious looking little book is a mine of historical and devotional interest. In his desire to supplement or illustrate the too scanty details given by the Evangelists, the author has searched practically every possible source of information and the result has been to give the English public the first book treating at any length of the religious, social, economic and political background of Jewish life at the time when the Holy Family lived at Nazareth. The narrative abounds in apt quotations from such varied writers as Josephus and Père Lagrange, Suetonius and H. V. Morton, Eusebius and Chesterton, and a dozen others whose works have touched in different ways upon the subject. The footnotes at the end of the volume giving the list of works consulted, show to what a truly surprising extent, considering the difficulties of war-time conditions, Father O'Shea has pursued his investigations. With His Lordship the Bishop of Meath, who contributes the introduction, we heartily congratulate him on his achievement and wish God-speed to his book.

S.M.D.

Blackfriars, April, 1945 (Vol. II. No. 14). *Price 6d. if purchased separately.* The Ditchling Press, Hassocks, Sussex.