

## *Blackfriars*

ESSAYS IN SATIRE. By Ronald A. Knox. (Sheed & Ward; 3/6.)

When this book appeared in its first edition, BLACKFRIARS gave it a full-length review. It is only necessary here to welcome it once more and to applaud the enterprise of the publishers, who have re-issued it at a reduced price, though by no means in a cheap get-up, and thus circulated the gaiety enormously. *Reunion All Round* and *Absolute and Abitofhell* will continue to be favourites, and may very well provide material for the future historian who sets out to describe the strange religious conditions of the England we know. Several of the Essays were published in BLACKFRIARS. And that reminds us that a strange coincidence occurred with regard to Father Knox's last article in these pages. In November he contributed an article, *The Man who tried to convert the Pope*, describing how a certain Dr. Townsend of Durham went in 1850 on a pious mission to convert Pope Pius IX. In the *Church of England Newspaper* (December 5th, 1930) Dr. Well-don, Dean of Durham, published an account of the same episode under the title, *A Mission to Convert the Pope*. We were in first. It is for the Dean to imprecate, *Pereant isti . . . .*

AN EXAMINATION OF EUGENICS. By H. Robbins. (Burns, Oates & Washbourne; 1/6.)

Mr. Robbins in writing this book has deserved well of his readers and of his clients. Indeed we are at a loss to single out amongst the writers on this subject any writer who has deserved quite so well from those who have a right to appraise and praise.

If at times Mr. Robbins uses forcible language it is always of infinitely less virulence than the proposals of the Eugenicists. These proposals are, as he rightly says, 'Prohibition of Marriage, Segregation, Sterilisation and the Lethal Chamber' (p. 190-1). These brutal proposals can be, and usually are, proposed in quiet language. But nowhere does Mr. Robbins allow his language to equal the brutality of the Eugenic programme.

It is symptomatic of our modern crisis that the writer of this defence of the weak and poor of Christ has to defend them against some Catholic and even clerical eugenicists. But his defence is so reasoned and so essentially charitable and just that we hope these Catholics may unsay what they have so unwisely said.

V. McN.