

Blackfriars

intuition (*vernunft*, the *anima* of Claudel) 'policed' by reason. *Crisis in the West* is a profound study of the loss 'both of the natural religion of the ancients and of the natural-supernatural religion of medieval Christianity' in the present-day subjective *status naturae purae*; and calls for a Catholic apostolate of patience: 'Make yourself Christian . . . Then look around you and perform the work that has been given you . . . But wait in patience, for it is only the sowing that is your business.'

Mr. Dawson's own essay sets forth the claims of Christianity as 'the one mediator between East and West,' her unique power 'of satisfying the whole of human nature' and bringing 'the transcendent reality of spiritual Being into relation with human experience and the realities of social life.'

These first three pamphlets make a fine opening to a fine venture. *Deus qui incepit, ipse perficiat.* G.V.

DAS JOHANNESSEVANGELIUM, übersetzt und erklärt von Dr. Fritz Tillmann. (Bonn: Peter Hanstein; Mk. 11.80; bound, Mk. 14.30.)

This commentary on St. John's Gospel is the second volume to appear in the fourth, completely revised, edition of the well-known series of commentaries on the New Testament by German Catholic scholars under the general editorship of Dr. Tillmann. As in previous editions, Dr. Tillmann himself is the author of it. He tells us in his preface that he has said nothing of the Mandaeen documents with which criticism of the Fourth Gospel is so much occupied at present, because he is convinced that the Mandaeans are not earlier than the fourth century, and does not see that the documents contribute anything to a deeper understanding of St. John's 'spiritual Gospel.' There we have an indication of the spirit in which the commentary has been written; disregarding passing vagaries, the author has endeavoured to furnish the ordinary reader with a solidly built commentary of permanent utility. Dr. Tillmann's reputation as an exegete has long stood deservedly high, and his present work is a useful addition to a useful series. L.W.

FOR JOAN OF ARC: An Act of Homage from nine members of the French Academy: Marshal Foch, Louis Bertrand, Georges Goyau, Henri Lavedan, Louis Madelin, Maître Henri-Robert, Mgr. Baudrillart, Maurice Barrés, Gabriel Hano-taux. (Sheed & Ward; 7/6.)

There is truly no end to the writing of books about St. Joan, and quite right, too; for if such a miraculous and glorious story

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as hers shall not inspire the making of books, then why write books at all? Her five hundredth anniversary, which is being kept this year, will provide a welcome opportunity for the telling and re-telling of the marvel of her life and achievement. An insignificant child, a village girl, who knew nothing, 'neither A nor B,' just the *Pater*, the *Ave Maria* and the *Credo*, steps into public life and, with no human influence to recommend her, leads a great army to victory and accomplishes the incredible. Whence came the insight of this ignorant peasant girl? her knowledge of the complex condition of the country? the lay-out of the land; her minute understanding of the apparatus of war, of how to lead men, to manage artillery and all the contrivances of military organisation? How came she to be acquainted with the niceties of strategy, the complexities of politics, the under-currents and intrigues of a complicated society? Whence did she derive the wisdom which enabled her to speak with the technical accuracy of a theologian? There is only one answer—the answer she herself gave and the answer to which all the contributors to this symposium agree—that her voices were from God. Her truly supernatural vocation, her divine mission—there is the secret of her appeal to all manner of men.

This book *For Joan of Arc*, elegantly printed, beautifully illustrated and written by nine French Academicians, makes a good souvenir—a thing to hold for keeps as a reminder and a homage to the Peasant Girl, Soldier, Saint and Martyr who is among the most attractive and romantic figures in the world's story.

THE STORY OF SAINT JOAN : A BOOK FOR CHILDREN. By Clare F. Oddie. (Longmans; 2/6).

Another little book on the same great Saint, written at the request of a child and set forth in the style and idiom that a child will appreciate and take in, is to be praised as a conspicuous success. The fact that it is written for the young explains, perhaps, a certain diffuseness in the narrative and a very engaging, wandering sort of digressiveness. Its simplicity and candour will recommend it to many an unsophisticated adult who disdains not to be considered one of Francis Thompson's 'children of a larger growth.'

THE BESFORD COURT CATHOLIC MENTAL WELFARE HOSPITAL : Eleventh and Twelfth Annual Reports, 1928—1930. By the Resident Manager, the Rt. Rev. Mgr. Newsome.

The wonderful annual Reports of Mgr. Newsome always make me regret I have never had the opportunity of visiting Besford,