

do for her, that is, set her out gently and at leisure, this has not done. The C.T.S. pamphlet covers the exact same ground with greater acceptability. It seems a pity to make a book that is neither great nor small about a saint who can stand by herself in our minds, though no doubt this is a readable book. There is one misprint, 'eagerness,' p. 12. The dust-cover is attractive, but not the 'blurb'.

M. M. MERRICK.

BRENDAN THE NAVIGATOR. By Dr George A. Little. (Dublin. Gill; 10s.)

Imagination and enthusiasm working on a mass of data gathered mainly from secondary sources, in a frankly partisan spirit, with the utmost possible use of probabilities to strengthen the case, have produced an entertaining book. It is at times trying in its pedantry, which even has to write *Laudes* for Lauds; and although it does not go so far as to attempt to show the probability of the Saint's famous meeting with Judas on his ice-floe, it strains our credulity a little when it asks us to accept the landing on the whale. 'To lessen the alleged absurdity of this occurrence,' Dr Little tells us of a similar adventure which befell, so he is informed, four Kerry men forty years ago! His handling of other incidents is happier, if not always convincing, and a rather rhapsodic prose sometimes achieves passages of notable description. There is much sound matter, especially where the author draws on such works as Dr Ryan's *Irish Monasticism*. All who like romantic history will enjoy this account of St Brendan with its lively reconstruction of the story of his perilous voyages.

A. R.

ALL MY DAYS FOR GOD. From the spiritual writings of St Alphonsus. Edited by J. B. Coyle, C.S.S.R. (Gill, Dublin; 6s. 6d.)

This is the first of four volumes designed to cover every day in the year with 'reflections and affections from the spiritual writings of St Alphonsus.' It does in fact provide a set meditation for each day from Advent to Sexagesima.

N. P.

LA PRIERE CHRETIENNE. Par Bede Frost. Traduit par l'Abbé Alfred Martin (Cerf: n.p.)

The editor of this translation writes: 'The author of *La Prière Chrétienne* belongs to the Anglican Church. The Catholic who is surprised to see a Catholic publisher bringing out a work of Anglican spirituality is asked simply to read this little book to the end fortified by its *imprimatur*. Therein he will find nothing but the old ideas of the Catholic Church, the Catholic meaning of prayer—but retold with a very wholesome and savoury accent'.

LA DEUXIEME CONVERSION. By Père M-A. Lamarche, O.P. pp. 46.
 SOUFFRANCE DE N-SEIGNEUR JESUS-CHRIST. By Père Thomas de
 Jésus, pp. 54.

INSTRUCTIONS FAMILIERES SUR LES PRATIQUES DE LA VRAIE DEVO-
 TION. By Jean-François Billecocq, O.P. pp. 48. (Collection of
 Spiritual Texts published by Editions de l'arbre, Montréal.
 Price not given.)

Père Lamarche addresses those who make little spiritual progress in spite of diligent practice of their religion, and if he emphasises the corruption of human nature and the low standard of spiritual life even in those who have turned to God from sin, it is only to lay bare the causes of such a state and to suggest remedies. It must be the concern of the individual to remove what may be called the scandal of the good Catholic: one content to avoid mortal sin, perhaps only by a hair's breadth, with no further aspirations, or one who would willingly go further but nevertheless through failure to be generous in self-denial, remains subject to worldliness, passion, and self-deception even after years of reception of the Sacraments. Père Lamarche, in urging his readers to accept the active and passive mortification of the senses and emotions leading to the second conversion, is only echoing the great spiritual writers and the findings of theology on the effects of original sin and the doctrine of justification. The human mind and heart are prejudiced against doctrines which accuse them precisely of their prejudice and if this exposé can help one to admit that prejudice it will be of value.

Thomas of Jesus was a Portuguese of the sixteenth century; captured by the Moors, he was sold, and eventually thrown into prison where he wrote the 'Souffrances' from which extracts are printed in this edition. Père Billecocq, a contemporary of Fenelon, published his 'Instructions' in 1673. These extracts deal with the dedication of one's self to God, the treatment of scruples, and the love of God above all things.

D. M.

OUR LADY'S HOURS. By Mary Ryan. (Mercier Press; 6s.)

Tertiaries and all who recite the *Officium Parvum* will welcome the new and enlarged edition of *Our Lady's Hours* by Professor Ryan. Incorporating all that was instructive in the first edition, including a Preface by the Very Rev. Fr Hilary Carpenter, O.P., this new edition contains an enlarged and more detailed commentary on the various parts of the Office, an illuminating chapter on 'The Old Testament in the Little Office,' and a good index. The print is excellent and the binding strong. Professor Ryan has the gift of presenting her scholarship in a manner both simple and devotional and her book should be a solid aid to liturgical prayer.

C. T.