

Blackfriars

THE CATHOLIC DIRECTORY, 1929. (Burns, Oates and Washbourne; 3/6.)

THE CATHOLIC WHO'S WHO AND YEAR BOOK, 1929. (Burns, Oates, and Washbourne; 5/-.)

The Catholic Directory this year reaches the venerable age of ninety-three. It has in this present issue revived a feature that was missing from the last three or four numbers, namely, information concerning the Church in Scotland. This reviewer has noticed errors, though he feels sure he has not noticed all of them. The marvel is that such a high standard of accuracy is maintained. More errors could be eliminated if the editors were served more wisely and seriously by local rectors and others whose concern it should be to inform the compilers of changes and new arrangements.

The Catholic Who's Who has a wise preface by Cardinal Bourne, who briefly reviews the progress of the Church in this country since 1829. We have not yet discovered the secret of the editor's principle of inclusion and exclusion. Is it bashfulness that explains certain obvious gaps?

LEVITATION. An Examination of the Evidence and Explanations. By Olivier Leroy. (Burns, Oates, and Washbourne, 1928; 10/6.)

That the human body can under certain circumstances rise from the ground and remain suspended in mid-air, without visible support, is a fact which has been attested to from quite early times to the present day. We meet with descriptions of levitation, as this phenomenon is now called, in such early writers as Apollonius of Tyana, Jamblichus, and others. Jamblichus himself is said to have been seen raised some distance from the ground, while he prayed, his body being bathed in a golden light.

In recent times the famous medium, Daniel D. Home, was frequently seen to be levitated, and on one well-authenticated occasion, when in a state of trance, he was carried out of the window of one room and floated in at the window of the room next to it.

Levitations have been ascribed to various saints and holy persons throughout the centuries, and in many instances, witnessed by persons of unimpeachable integrity. Though by no means a necessary accompaniment of a mystic trance, or a usual effect of a holy life, nevertheless the phenomenon is constantly associated with such a state of life. When levita-