

Blackfriars

THE POCKET MISSAL. Compiled by Father Aloysius, O.S.F.C.
(Gill and Son.)

The appearance of a great number of missals for lay use is an excellent sign of the liturgical revival that is taking place at the present time. It is to be supposed that each one finds its sphere among different people. This is a small one, compact and easy to carry. In such a compressed book, there is of necessity a great deal of referring back and forwards to other pages. The arrangement of the feasts is somewhat curious, the ordinary sequence of the Calendar would have been easier to follow. It is meant chiefly for Ireland, for there is a special list of Irish patron Saints, and certain phrases are used that are unusual in this country, *e.g.* 'Retrenched Holidays.' It is to be hoped that it will be widely used in that country.

LOURDES. By Aileen Mary Clegg. (Sheed & Ward; 2/6.)

This is the second and revised edition of a book which, it is to be hoped, will go on being reprinted, because although there are shoals of books about Lourdes, I know of none that has attracted me more than this sensible, straight-forward story. A huge literature has grown up around Lourdes—and it is still growing. The author has availed herself of most of this material; but I think the special charm of her account lies in this that, while she has read most of what has been written on the subject, she is conveying impressions which she has gathered for herself. She knows Lourdes through and through, not as a mere casual visitor or as a detached spectator; but as one who lives there and has unconsciously absorbed the spirit of the place. Freshness, candour, simplicity, humour and piety combined with a delightful naturalness and almost 'matter-of-factness' are the conspicuous qualities of the book. There is no forced or jarring note—especially is this to be noted in the very interesting and restrained account of the miracles. Anyone in search of a compendious, readable account of Lourdes, its history, the apparitions, the pilgrimages and the cures could not do better than get this book. It is a book for everyone, the sceptic, the indifferent and agnostic as well as the ardent believer. Those who hope some day to go to Lourdes will want this book to supplement the cut-and-dried guide book; those who never hope to go should have it to compensate them for what they have missed; and those who *have* been to Lourdes will certainly need it to enable them to recapture the delight of their brief visit and make the spiritual thrill of their pilgrimage an abiding memory.