

A BOOK OF UNLIKELY SAINTS. By Margaret T. Monro. (Longmans; 7s. 6d.)

In her latest study of Saints for modern times Miss Monro has repeated the success of 'Seeking For Trouble.' Again and again she puts her finger on the flaws in our contemporary civilisation and shows up the neglected Christian values by contrast with the lives of certain saints. 'The Modern Saint has been the brake on all that men madly mistake for progress.' One could wish that some of the post-war planners would study the defence of the prince who wanted to be a Saint rather than an Ideal Despot; of the beggar, who defied hygiene and yet reached perfection. Now that war has made men reconciled to austerity, one hopes that this book will reach a wide public and its message fall and ripen on receptive ground.

K.M.

YELLOW TAPERS FOR PARIS. By Bruce Marshall. (Constable, 8s. 6d.)

Mr. Bruce Marshall is a picturesque novelist; the scenes he depicts are vivid, the atmospheres he creates violently realistic. In this latest novel he is describing a small sector of bourgeois Paris life in the years before the *débâcle* of 1940, and through the medium of these everyday Parisian characters indicating some of the social reasons for that *débâcle*. He is extremely skilful in his presentation; the reading of the story is both fascinating and painful; the long series of governmental inefficiencies, private selfishnesses, commercial dishonesties, seems to lead inevitably to the final scene of the flight from Paris just before the Armistice. Mr. Bruce Marshall intersperses with his grim vignettes of secular life glimpses of the Catholic Church at work in the unsympathetic atmosphere of the Third Republic. These scenes are, perhaps, too strongly coloured, but they are an integral part of Mr. Marshall's work in which, from his first and most famous novel, *Fr. Malachy's Miracle*, he has consistently shown himself to be a notable and Catholic writer, vivid, disillusioned and full of charity.

P.U.F.

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