

NOTICES

SOLDIER OF THE SPIRIT, by Michel Carrouges (Gollancz, 18s.), is an account of the life of Charles de Foucauld which would have been more readable had it been translated with more spirit and sensitiveness: as it is, an enthralling story has been made rather pedestrian. Mrs Anne Fremantle gives some particulars of the Little Brothers and Sisters of Jesus in an introduction, and Brother Voillaume, founder of the Brothers, adds a short preface. Such spellings as 'worshipped' are revolting.

THE SACRAMENTS ARE OURS, translated from the French of H. Tardif by Dom Aldhelm Dean (Challoner Publications, cloth 8s. 6d., paper 6s. 6d.), is written with the excellent intention of bringing home to the laity the corporate—one might almost say 'Mystici-Corporate'—function of the sacraments. It is solid with quotations from the liturgy and the Fathers, and this is its one drawback—it is difficult to read; there is something to be said for relegating quotations to footnotes, especially if they are broken by a series of dots indicating omissions. However, although it needs to be read slowly and carefully, it is well worth the effort.

BLESSED BAPTIST OF MANTUA, CARMELITE AND HUMANIST, by Fr Brocard Sewell, O.C.A.R.M. (St Albert's Press, Aylesford, 2s.), is a very pleasant sample both of the work of this press and of the figure to whom it is devoted. Fr Brocard gives us a glimpse of Blessed Baptist's busy life and a taste of his writings in prose and verse sufficient to whet our appetite. The Eclogues, which were so well-known to the Elizabethans and to seventeenth-century schoolboys, deserve not to be entirely forgotten by us.

Mr Conrad M. R. Bonacina's COLLECTED POEMS (Trouvere Press, 7s. 6d.) span thirty years from the 1900s to the 1930s. There is much reflection and remembering and some straightforward comment on the passing scene. The cadences and rhythms recall Edward Lear and Walter de la Mare, with some otiose verses:

'We spake of beauty thou and I
And of the secret sting
Of sorrow that doth ever lie
Beneath its flowering.'

Yet for some it will pass a pleasant hour.

A LETTER TO LUCIAN, and other poems, by Alfred Noyes (John Murray, 10s. 6d.), will not upset those who prefer their poetry pre-Eliot.

Accomplishment of versification cannot save his religious poetry from triteness, nor a certain sweetness of diction, an occasional melancholy charm, infuse life into his romanticism. Irony rescues the title poem and the ballades.

The valuable JOHN GERARD, *THE AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF AN ELIZABETHAN* (Longmans, 25s.) has been enlarged in the second edition by the inclusion of numerous additional notes. These are based largely on an important collection of letters from English Jesuits contemporary with Gerard which the translator, Fr Philip Caraman, S.J., came across in Rome subsequent to the first appearance of this book.

ROUGH SHOOTING, by George A. Grattan (Faber, 28s.), deals specially with the changed economic and social conditions under which this form of amusement must now be practised by its devotees.

THE HERALDRY OF THE KNIGHTS OF ST JOHN, by G. R. Gayre (Garga Brothers, Allahabad, 16s. 6d. overseas), is concerned mainly with the chequered career of the Order in England. The book contains two introductory chapters sketching the Knights' history, and two Appendices giving rolls of present British members both of the Sovereign Military Order of Malta and of the independent Order of St John of Jerusalem in England. The book production is, by English standards, poor.

IN MEDITATING THE GOSPELS (The Liturgical Press, St John's Abbey, Collegeville, Minnesota, \$3.90), Dom Emeric Lawrence, O.S.B., makes the Gospels of all the Masses of the liturgical year the basis for simple and direct meditations which are not merely cold 'considerations' to prepare us for prayer but, being addressed to our Lord, already have the form of prayer.

AN INTRODUCTION TO THE SPIRITUAL LIFE, by Reginald Buckler, O.P. (Blackfriars Publications, 11s.), is a welcome reprint of a book originally called *Spiritual Considerations*. Its new title perhaps suggests something more systematic than this collection of what were, one supposes, retreat conferences. But the robust spirituality of Father Buckler, at once so characteristically Dominican and so unmistakably English, should be very acceptable to a generation which looks for solid food rather than the *hors d'oeuvres* of devotion.

A BOOK OF FAMILY PRAYERS, by Hubert McEvoy, S.J. (Oliver and Boyd, 5s.) is a pleasantly produced collection of prayers, suitable for all sorts of family occasions.