

BLACKFRIARS

though he may declare that peace is the first interest of the British Empire, really means what he says. He means *security*. But this cannot be guaranteed merely by increased national air armaments. Overwhelming air supremacy is not practical politics because no great state will accept a condition of inferiority, nor will a strong air force threatening retaliation deter a prospective enemy who counts on getting a paralyzing blow in first. Two courses appear to be open; first, the abolition of air armaments and the internationalization of civil aviation; or alternatively, the adoption of air armaments as an effective instrument of third-party intervention in a dispute, an unambiguous threat of the community of nations against any party disposed to what has clearly been defined as aggression. The author has no difficulty in disposing of those publicists who declare that this country can only preserve her peace by adopting a policy of isolation and refusing foreign commitments. Probably most of our wars have been defensive wars and yet they have all been fought in someone else's country. Only Switzerland and Greenland seem to have escaped our campaigning.

THOMAS GILBY, O.P.

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THE PONTIFICATE OF LEO XIII. By Eduardo Soderini. Translated by Barbara Carter. Vol. I. (Burns, Oates, 1934; 7/6.)

This is the first volume of the somewhat belated official biography of Leo XIII. No indication is given in either Preface or Note of the ultimate length of the book or its exact scope or plan, but the present instalment furnishes the main incidents of the Pontiff's life, with a detailed account of the Conclave in which he was elected, and then minutely and ably devotes itself to that work of Social Reconstruction which was the most striking feature of Leo's long pontificate. The author writes learnedly and dispassionately, and has used much new matter, the secret archives of the Holy See having been placed at his disposal. The translation is adequate, yet the reader is always quite conscious that it is a translation that he is perusing, and not the original.

The era of Leo XIII seems a remote one now, and the world has moved apace since his time. Yet the student of present-day problems will find in this book much to interest him. For Leo XIII worked for the future. His action was social rather than political, and he gave to Catholic Action its present orientation. Brunetière used to say it was Leo XIII who liberated Catholicism from the antiquated forms that had enveloped and stifled it, and who restored to it the freedom and fecundity of its early institution. For this Leo will be eternally honoured in the history of the Church, and because of this the story of his reign deserves to be closely and attentively studied. (F.R.B.)

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ST. BIRGITTA OF SWEDEN. By Edith Peacey. (Washbourne and Bogan; 12/6.)

THE ENGLISH BRIDGETTINES. By J. R. Fletcher. (Syon Abbey Press; 3/6.)

The Bridgettine order has gained a special significance in the history of English Catholicism through the long survival of Syon Abbey, and it is fortunate that these two studies are complementary. The life of the foundress is closely detailed in a brightly-coloured style, and Sister Edith Peacey will have done much to popularize a devotion to the Saint. The account of the English Bridgettines continues the story to 1925. Canon Fletcher has a high conception of the state of observance in pre-reformation Syon, and his section on the Dissolution is a study in black and white. The wanderings of the community in Flanders and Normandy and its establishment at Lisbon are described in some detail, its later history is naturally compressed. Canon Fletcher possesses a power of selection and his work is a contribution to our knowledge. (J.M.)

MARTHE DE NOAILLAT, 1865-1926. Par Simone de Noaillet-Ponvert. (Desclée de Brouwer, Paris; 15 fr.)

Mme. Simone de Noaillet-Ponvert has attempted the impossible feat of reproducing the charm of a strong and lovable personality, but how grateful we are to her for the attempt, and for admitting us to Marthe de Noaillet's intimacy. To know her as patriot, *savante*, ascetic and apostle, without knowing her as friend, sister, wife and the godmother of Tosette, would be to miss perhaps the best of her. She was a 'super-woman' whose deep humility and warm heart prevented her towering superiority from being oppressively obvious to her less gifted associates. And since that indefinable quality which we call personality is revealed more in a face than in recorded words, we are particularly grateful for the photograph which forms the frontispiece. (M.B.)

THIS ROYAL WAY. By Father Oswald Bennett, C.P. With Foreword by His Grace the Archbishop of Liverpool. (Washbourne & Bogan; 3/6.)

This excellent volume of eminently practical meditations on the incidents of Our Lord's Passion and Death recorded in the *Stations of the Cross* provides a new and valuable auxiliary not only for the more fruitful use of that devout exercise but also for the re-ordering of life in line with *This Royal Way* of loving self-sacrifice. The scheme of each of these fourteen meditations is original, especially in the sense of putting human life in terms of true fundamental principles, and we are enabled to approach

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from yet another angle that ' folly of the Cross ' with which our happiness is so vitally bound up. As His Grace of Liverpool says, in the all too brief foreword : ' This book provides excellent spiritual reading for colleges, convents, and for the thoughtful laity generally. (H.)

AS LITTLE CHILDREN. By A. Howarth Lord. (Washbourne and Bogan ; 2/6.)

These stories will be known to readers of the *Catholic Times* where they have already appeared. They are each of them stories with a moral though the moral is not too heavily underlined. They are evidently meant for children of from ten to fourteen rather than for the very young ; they are written simply but not childishly and Miss Lord is to be congratulated on her evident understanding of youthful outlook and aspirations. We suspect that parents and others who buy this book to give to children will enjoy reading the little stories themselves and may profit from them, mayhap, even more than the children. The illustrations, coloured and plain, are pleasing.

(O.P.)

JESUS CHRIST REDEEMER. In Commemoration of the Nineteenth Centenary of the Redemption. (The Dolphin Press, Philadelphia ; One Dollar).

This book consists of five chapters reprinted from *The Ecclesiastical Review*, representing scholarly disquisitions on various aspects of Our Divine Lord's work and notably as applied to men of our own times. The contributors are The Most Rev. Archbishop Goodier, S.J., His Excellency the Apostolic Delegate to the United States, Dr. Patrick Healey, S.T.D., and Dr. John Cooper, S.T.D., both of the Catholic University of America, and Dr. John Burke, C.S.P., S.T.D., of the National Catholic Welfare Conference. The book is intended, perhaps, more for the learned than the simple. (H.)

THE ROSARY : A SOCIAL REMEDY. By Thomas Schwertner, O.P. (The Bruce Publishing Company, Milwaukee, Wisc., U.S.A. ; \$1.50.)

The second book in the *Religion and Culture Series* is from the pen of the well known American Dominican, the late Father Schwertner. The thought of it is based on the Encyclical of Leo XIII on the place of the Rosary in his programme of Social Reconstruction. In this very readable book Father Schwertner has much of practical value to say on the use of this devotion as a remedy for the evils and difficulties arising from social disorders and modern life in general. (P.K.M.)

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IRELAND'S LOYALTY TO THE MASS. By Fr. Augustine, O.M.
(Sands; 3/6.)

Fr. Augustine writes of Irish devotion to the Mass from the years of the Henrican schism to the time of the Eucharistic Congress. The style is often vivid and always picturesque and, though use has been made of original authorities, judgments are delivered with emphasis and generalizations with enthusiasm.

(A.I.M.)

TO MIRANDA. By Cecily Hallack. (Washbourne and Bogan;
3/6.)

A collection of papers, on personal and other themes, which appeared originally in *The Missionary*. Miss Hallack has a graceful pen, and she has, too, the great gift of translating the material in terms of the spiritual. But we think she is at her best when this translation is not too literal; when, as always, she 'adorns her tale,' but trusts her reader to 'point the moral.' For the essayist, as for the orator, aposiopesis has a definite value. (S.A.)

INDIA: LAND OF REGRETS. By Charles Sandford. (Fenland
Press; 8/6.)

The author was editor of an English daily in Delhi in Lord Irwin's time, and believes that a journalist 'is the only man in India who can be Catholic in his social life.' It has therefore 'occurred to him that he may perhaps have something to say that the officials and the pamphleteers have left unsaid.' A breezy, superficial, and patronizing account of 'some years of strenuous, though on the whole pleasurable work in India and of conversations with all sorts and conditions of men in that country' is the result. At least one reader prefers the officials and pamphleteers, and what they—perhaps lacking the author's taste for the salacious—have left unsaid. (H.C.E.Z.)

MASTER SANGUINE. By Ivor Brown. (Hamish Hamilton; 7/6.)

The Aunt Sallys of *I Commit to the Flames* are here again, with other matters, mercilessly pilloried. One regretted that in the former book Mr. Brown had not been at pains to separate the wheat from the chaff; here, the different medium, the raciness and brilliance of the style, forbid cavil. One is borne breathlessly along with the hero through his adventures at 'educational community' and school, at Chastity College, Oxford, among the intricacies of politics, finance, nudism, the film industry, till at last one is allowed to take breath in the final remedying of his chronic incredulity in the arms of his Virginia.

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Enjoy the book first; the business of assessing how unjust (as well as just) Mr. Brown has been to many things can wait a more sober hour. (L.S.G.V.)

BEASTS AND SAINTS. Translations by Helen Waddell. Woodcuts by Robert Gibbings. (Constable; 5/-.)

Friendship with animals is impossible, except perhaps, grants St. Thomas, metaphorically. Perhaps he had in mind some of the tales in this book, tales of mutual charities between saints and beasts, from the fourth to the twelfth centuries; from St. Pachome, summoning a crocodile to ferry him as one calls a taxi, to St. Godric, hushing up how he was sheltering a stag from the hounds. The illustrations brilliantly match the grace of the translations and the unerring fancy of the stories. (T.O.P.)

CHALK AND CHEESE by Richard Vaughan (John Miles, 7/6) is a story of an eighteen-year-old boy from a Rhodesian Public School at a Co-educational School in Austria: a study in simple contrasts. That Co-education may work healthily without stringent regulations may surprise some who are suspicious of the Very Idea. (T.G.)

Messrs. Burns Oates and Washbourne show considerable pluck and enterprise in undertaking the publication of a translation of the voluminous *LIFE AND WORKS OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL* by Père Pierre Coste, the first volume (21/-) of which has recently appeared. St. Vincent has suffered much from legend-mongers on one hand and from 'literary' romancers on the other: this definitive biography is none the less fascinating for being thoroughly scholarly, objective and critical. The translation, by Fr. Leonard, C.M., reads easily. The complete work will be reviewed in due course.

THE CATHOLIC SOCIAL YEAR BOOK for 1934 (Catholic Social Guild, Oxford, 1/-) takes the valuable form of an improved and authorised translation of the *Quadragesimo Anno* with explanatory notes and an index. Its evident usefulness is enhanced by careful sub-editing.

Painstaking research has gone to the making of **THE LUTHERAN ORIGIN OF THE ANGLICAN ORDINAL** by Dr. E. C. Messenger (Burns, Oates, 2/6), who shows, pretty conclusively, that the Edwardian rite was, in the main, based upon that drawn up by Bucer for his Lutheran community at Strasburg and not directly upon a Catholic Pontifical. It is a pity that the author has not made more explicit the line of argument he would have us draw from his facts whose general tendency might sometimes seem as well

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to prove the validity of Lutheran as the invalidity of Anglican Orders. Moreover, the close similarity which is shown to exist between the two rites makes their occasional divergencies (notably in the crucial formula for the laying-on of hands) all the more striking, and it is a weakness that these divergencies are left unexplained. It is nevertheless a study which may be warmly recommended to the unprejudiced consideration of that dwindling number of Anglicans who still believe that facts of bygone history have relevance to the validity of their Orders. (V.W.)

Among recent publications of the Catholic Truth Society are two additions to the *Comparative Religion* series of twopenny pamphlets. Dr. A. Janssens' *ANGLICANISM* is a praiseworthy, though sometimes a rather naive attempt to give in short compass an objective account of the history and characteristics of the Church of England. The essay has been criticized by some as 'hard hitting' and by others as a disgrace to the C.T.S. by reason of insufficiency of controversial matter and its refusal to regard the Church of England as a totally new body which came into existence by spontaneous generation in the sixteenth century. The truth is that the writer has made every effort to be scrupulously fair and accurate, and has, in the main, been singularly successful. (V.W.)

MAURICE LEAHY (10/6); *The Victory of Christ*, Anscar Vonier, O.S.B. (5/-); *Children of the Lantern*, 'Lamplighter' (3/6).

CAPS: *Things to Live For*, Francis Stuart (7/6).

CATHOLIC RECORDS PRESS (Exeter): *The Origin and Development of Roman Liturgical Vestments* (2nd impression, revised and augmented), Raymond James (2/6).

CATHOLIC TRUTH SOCIETY: Several twopenny pamphlets.

DANIEL COMPANY: *Evolution of Thought*, E. H. Pollard (1/-).

DESCLEE, DE BROUWER (Paris): *Le Père des Prêcheurs*, Claude-Étienne Savoye, O.S.B. (10/6).

The fundamental case for Distributism, shorn of sentimentalism and fanaticism, but stated with no less passionate conviction than logical cogency, will be found in *SOME ARGUMENTS FOR A REDISTRIBUTION OF PROPERTY*, a pamphlet by 'Agrarian' published by the Cobbett Club and obtainable from its secretary, Mr. Michael Derrick, The Queen's College, Oxford (8d.). The writer shows better reason for believing in the inevitability of Distributism than Marx did for that of Communism, but holds that the would-be reformer should fulfil the rôle of 'a kind of economic midwife' and help to forestall the painful process of natural evolution by 'facilitating the deliverance of a new civilization if he has the skill.' This menshevik Distributism may be recommended to the consideration of those who find the revolutionary and escapist forms open to serious objection. (V.W.)

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GRAMOPHONE

Music both uproarious and witty is the Polka and Fugue from *Schwanda*, the swirl of the dance, the quiet strings first stating the fugue, the organ at the close (DB 2223; the Minneapolis Symphony Orchestra does not miss the joke). Mozart was nineteen when he wrote the *Violin Concerto in A Major*; it starts *allegro aperto*—roundels and suddennesses; the andante—*ni gai, ni malheureux, mais bien vivant*; the finale—effect after effect, Tyrolean song, Hungarian dance, Neapolitan tremolo, all the bizarrerie of an Archduke's bivouac (DB 2199-2202; Jascha Heifetz the soloist plays the cadenzas inserted by Joachim; the orchestral finish is what we expect from John Barbirolli and the London Philharmonic). Seven years later, and Mozart was haunted by Death; the *Quintet in G Minor*, despite the lissom grace of the final rondo, witnesses to a profound unrest strange to those who have thought his complications merely a matter of baroque ornament, but underneath, as Gounod said, 'all humanity, with the simplicity of a child'; for in this quintet even the minuet is rugged, there is resentment, a broken utterance, an uncertain dialogue, an ominous hammering, consolation denied by an inexorable Fate (DB 2173-6; unequal recording, but a faithful performance by the Pro Arte Quartet with Messrs. Burns *Coles* 'all'-'v' aSInotttine sitow' d'ins. ceraride pluck and enterprise in undertaking the publication of a translation of the voluminous LIFE AND WORKS OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL by Père Pierre Coste, the first volume (21/-) of which has recently appeared. St. Vincent has suffered much from legend-mongers on one hand and from 'literary' romancers on the other: this definitive biography is none the less fascinating for being thoroughly scholarly, objective and critical. The translation, by Fr. Leonard, C.M., reads easily. The complete work *gros, sixans, grand' m'lon, r'ant'...* (see 5097 5098) is a good straightforward rhythm piece, Lilian Taylor playing *I'll string along with you* (F 5199).

A cult exists, we are told, of hot rhythm; clubs are being formed of its devotees, and Red Nichols is one of its leading exponents. But take his band (O 1851-56) or the eight pianos in Gershwin's *Rhapsody in Blue* (F 5097), and the eighteenth century more than stands the comparison, even if the test be fiery rhythm. So does the nineteenth century, with the Schubert-Liszt *Hungarian March in C Minor* (LY 6097), Kalman's *Die Bajadere* (PO 5102), Sarasate's *Fantasy on Gipsy Airs* (PO 5103). However, a modern dance record has its brilliance, *Miss Otis regrets* (F 5152), a number by Cole Porter, 'that rich young American who lives mostly in Paris and who has contributed so largely to the sophisticated lyric since the war.'

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An interesting conjunction is Debussy's *Nuits d'étoiles* and *Cave Selve* from Handel's *Atalanta* (B 8200; the latter, by the way, sung in somewhat Dutch Italian). There is the young brilliance of Miliza Korjus in two soprano coloratura airs by Mozart and Rossini (C 2688); two pleasant fiddle pieces, a Lully gavotte and a Mozart minuet (DE 7030). Finally, Rachmaninoff's *Second Suite for Two Pianos* (DB 2208-10) and the tone poem *Finlandia*, given by the Band of the Grenadier Guards (K 736).

(Key. H.M.V. : DB series, 6/-; C series, 4/-; B series, 2/6. Decca : F series, 1/6; K series, 2/6. Decca Polydor : PO series, 2/6; DE series, 2/6; LY series, 3/6. Brunswick : O series, 2/6.)

T.L.

BOOKS RECEIVED

- BENN : *Kant*, A. D. Lindsay (12/6).
- BURNS, OATES : *Readings and Addresses*, F. H. Drinkwater (5/-); *The Wayside* (reprint), Vincent McNabb, O.F. (3/6); *Thoughts from the Imitation of Christ* (2/6); *The Nine First Fridays*, A Secular Priest (3/6); *Spiritual Letters of Père de Caussade*, Transl. Algar Thorold, Introduction by Abp. Goodier, S.J. (6/-); *The Insight of the Cure d'Arts*, F. Trochu, Transl. Maurice Leahy (10/6); *The Victory of Christ*, Anscar Vonier, O.S.B. (5/-); *Children of the Lantern*, 'Lamplighter' (3/6).
- CAPE : *Things to Live For*, Francis Stuart (7/6).
- CATHOLIC RECORDS PRESS (Exeter) : *The Origin and Development of Roman Liturgical Vestments* (2nd impression, revised and augmented), Raymond James (2/6).
- CATHOLIC TRUTH SOCIETY : Several twopenny pamphlets.
- DANIEL COMPANY : *Evolution of Thought*, E. H. Pollard (1/-).
- DESCLEK, DE BROUWER (Paris) : *Le Père des Precheurs*, Claude Just (8 frs.); *Vie du Christ*, Michel Geschwind (3 frs.); *Catherine Fougère* (roman), Jacqueline Vincent (9 frs.); *Préface a une Réforme de l'Etat (Questions Disputées, Vol. XVI)*, Georges Viance (10 frs.).
- INSTITUTO STORICO DOMENICANO (S. Sabina, Rome) : *Decisionum S. Thomae Concordantiae*, Ed. G. Meersseman, O.P.
- INSTITUTUM 'ANGELICUM' : *Scripta Philosophica : Commentaria in Porphyrii Isagogen ad Praedicamenta Aristotelis*, auct. Thoma de Vio, Card. Caietano, ed. P. Isnardus M. Marega, praemissa auctoris vitae operum-que descriptione.
- JENKINS (HERBERT) : *The Mystery of Mortimer's Wood*, Margaret Beech (2/6).
- KEGAN PAUL : *Cardinal Ximenes and the Making of Spain*, Richard Merton (2/6).
- LONGMANS GREEN : *The Vision of God* (abridged Edition), K. E. Kirk (7/6).
- METHUEN : *Poetical Works of Kenneth Knight Hallowes*, Vol. I. (7/6).
- MOWBRAY : *The Meaning of the Mass*, Bede Frost (3/6).