



The Holy Name Society and its Great National Convention. Edited by the Very Reverend M. J. Ripple, O. P., P. G. Pp. 546. New York: National Holy Name Headquarters. \$5.00.

The Washington Convention of the Holy Name Society provides an inspiring subject worthy of a high place in the written record of Catholic accomplishment in the United States. Never in the history of religious endeavor of American Catholics has such an extraordinary demonstration of faith and zeal taken place. Indeed, the thousands of earnest, honest, strong-hearted men, united in noble and holy singleness of purpose taught a powerful and lasting lesson to the nations of the world.

Prompted by the same all-consuming fervor that made the Convention a gigantic success, the National Director has given us a memorial volume of this great achievement. In the first chapter, he gives us a short yet comprehensive history of the Holy Name Society, its preachers, its supporters, its ideals and its great moral influence. He then proceeds to sketch briefly the preliminary work of the Convention. The approval of the hierarchy and the hearty welcome of the press are recorded in the reprints of letters of endorsement and numerous editorials. Next, we come to the story of the convention itself. Here we have a vividly interesting and detailed account which is worthy of characters of gold. The fascinating story of the work of the delegates under the supervision of the directors and of the great events that took place during these four days culminates with the account of the National Rally Parade. Addresses by Cardinal O'Connell, President Coolidge and other notable speakers have been carefully compiled from the official reports of the Convention. The special prize essays, written by clerics and laymen on the organization, the maintenance, and the high ideals of the Holy Name Society, make it a valuable book of reference for every Catholic bookshelf. In the last chapter, we find some

interesting literary by-products of the Convention in the form of articles and sermons on the Holy Name. Hence, we not only have a fitting memorial of the Convention; but also a veritable encyclopedia of Holy Name knowledge.

We heartily recommend this book to all who are in any way connected with the Holy Name Society and to those who desire information regarding its work. We feel certain that this volume will in no small degree serve to perpetuate the work of the great Convention.

J. C. D.

The New History and the Social Studies. By Harry Elmer Barnes, Ph. D. Pp. xviii-605. New York: The Century Co. \$4.00.

Dr. Barnes' purpose is "first, to sketch the general nature of the newer or dynamic and synthetic history; then, to indicate . . . the contributions of the various social sciences to the methods and subject-matter of history . . . finally, there comes a chapter designed to present in summary fashion the bearing of the new history and the social studies upon the problems of social reconstruction and reform." As one of the younger group of forward-looking American historians, Dr. Barnes is qualified to carry out the ambitious program he has set for himself. His sketch of the "new history" is sufficiently lucid to compel understanding even from one who has no knowledge of historical writing. The succeeding chapters deal with the contributions to history made by writers and students in the fields of geography, psychology, anthropology, sociology, economics, natural sciences and technology, political science, and ethics. In the chapter on psychology, Dr. Barnes has given very thorough and valuable analyses of the systems of the leading modern psychologists, including James, Hall, Baldwin, Thorndike, McDougall, Watson, Le Bon, Wundt, and others. Similar, but less extensive analyses are made in the chapters on the other social sciences. In each one an exhaustive list of writers and books is given, so that if for nothing more, Dr. Barnes' book is valuable as a bibliographical guide to the literature on the social sciences.

Unfortunately, Dr. Barnes frequently departs from the legitimate province of the historian to inculcate many *a priori* theories and prepossessions of his own. For example, he applies that much-abused term "evolution" to all phases of man's activity, and subscribes heartily to the dictum of G. Stanley Hall that

"mind and body have evolved together in the race and have developed together in the individual in one continuous process . . . the mind stretches far beyond the limited experience of the individual . . . it is a product of millions of years of struggle." (p. 569). Again, such a statement as this: (p. 273) "the most competent physical anthropologists . . . working with biologists and comparative anatomists have established the facts of human physical evolution." Such a deliberate misstatement of fact is unworthy of a reputable historian, and betrays an over-eagerness to accept and propagate new doctrines regardless of their intrinsic worth, so long as they are at variance with the traditionally accepted beliefs. His ready acceptance of the fantastic theories of the origin of Christianity which (p. 301) "have amply proved that it (Christianity) cannot be regarded as a 'faith once for all delivered unto the saints,' but is rather a syncretic product compounded out of Hebraic lore, Hellenistic philosophy, and the purification and salvation ritual of the contemporary mystery cults" shows the author guilty of the very aspersions he casts at the natural scientist, who, he says, (p. 590) "is usually highly competent in his own narrow specialty, and a barbarian in other fields." Dr. Barnes is sufficiently competent in history, but he is a barbarian in theology and higher Biblical criticism.

Furthermore, his unabashed advocacy of such crimes against nature as birth control, abortion, etc., show the author to have gone afield in his efforts to interpret the past of mankind for the benefit of the present and future generations. As a social reformer, Dr. Barnes shows more misdirected zeal and thoughtless enthusiasm than calm, unbiased judgment. The reader needs to be constantly on guard lest he be carried away by the author's cleverly-worded but specious program of social reform. A. T. E.

The Dominican Order in England Before the Reformation. By Beryl E. R. Formoy. Pp. xvi-160. New York: The Macmillan Company (S.P.C.K.)

It is gratifying to note the renewed interest being taken by scholars of today in medieval history. Such interest can only result in better understanding and fuller appreciation of the years antedating the religious upheavals of the sixteenth century. Naturally, then, we warmly welcome the appearance of this book of Beryl Formoy, for it gives us an appreciation of Dominican activity in England from a non-Catholic viewpoint.

It is the purpose of the author to give some idea of the internal life of the Black Friars in England during the Middle Ages, and she has succeeded admirably when we consider the dearth of material on this period. It is to be regretted, however, that the manuscript was not corrected by some Dominican before going to press. There are many minor mistakes scattered throughout the book which could thus have been avoided. For instance, on p. 3: "The Friars Preachers . . . substituted the rochet for the scapular," where the author intends the opposite. Lay-brothers are referred to as "converts," from the Latin *conversus*. There are several errors of names, as on p. 20 William should be Gilbert. Likewise, the author quotes several pieces of verse which have no reference to the Black Friars, as on p. 34: "Your knotted girdle," and on p. 37 a "guardianus" is mentioned. Although these slips are slight, yet they are irritating to one acquainted with Dominican history, and detract from the general value of the work. The author confesses that she wrote prior to the appearance of Fr. Bede Jarrett's admirable work on the same subject, and regrets the fact that she did not have it as a reference work.

This work, on the whole, is very well done and deserves a warm reception. The mistakes can be easily rectified in a second edition. Credit is due the author for her efforts, and in particular for her hope, "that, so far as it goes, this little book may stimulate the reader to fresh interest in the Dominicans in England, and appreciation of their work." We thoroughly agree with her that "The Dominican Order has scarcely, up to date, received its fair share of attention from historians." It is also our hope that this little book may stimulate others to undertake a similar study, and bring the attention of scholars to the activity of the famous Black Friars during their first years in England.

U. B.

Studies in the History of Ideas. Edited by the Department of Philosophy of Columbia University. 2 Vols. Pp. 272 and 377. New York: Columbia University Press. \$6.00.

These volumes contain a series of papers intended to encourage research and the exercise of historical imagination, and to contribute to the history of culture. They have no definite plan of arrangement, no thesis to prove; they are just a ram-

bling discussion of various points of philosophy of the past and present. There can be little doubt that they attain the modest end to which they were directed; much original work is evident while the profound knowledge of the subjects considered and the brief, precise treatment adopted point out a path of research that might well stimulate imitation.

The work is plentifully sprinkled with materialistic and atheistic interpretation and comment, which, after all, is quite in keeping with the subject matter—various angles of Greek philosophy, Spinoza, Hobbes, Berkeley, Hume, James, etc. Yet it is precisely this infusion of the personal element by the authors that gives these studies their value to Catholics for it sets before our eyes the course of present day philosophical thought as taught in our secular universities, and reveals to us the points of misunderstanding that we must smooth away before we can be of any great assistance to those outside the Church. R. W. F.

The Psychology of Religious Mysticism. By James H. Leuba, Professor of Psychology, Bryn Mawr College. Pp. xii-336. New York: Harcourt, Brace & Co. \$5.00.

Mysticism to Professor James H. Leuba is no more inspiring than was the primrose by the river's brim to Peter Bell. For a "yellow primrose 'twas to him, and it was nothing more." Prof. Leuba finds mysticism all material, of the earth earthy. Ecstatic trances are merely periods of hysterical intoxication, the obvious effects of high "suggestibility"; the mystics are ascetical somnambules, organically deranged, and the requirements for a place among them are a frustrated amour and a vivid imagination.

Mr. Leuba is somewhat opinionated. He throws aside the consensus of worldwide conviction with the declaration that "the truth of a belief is not proved by the fact that it is shared by all known men." This theory he practices when he states: "It is unfortunate that a Marguerite Marie Alacoque should have been set up . . . for special reverence," and to worship God as did this holy nun is "to open the door to some of the worst perversions and distortions possible. . . ." The Poor Man of Assisi he pictures as a monster of ambition; St. Ignatius Loyola having "lost a leg" turned to religion for a livelihood. Blessed Henry Suso alone escapes obloquy. Prof. Leuba threat-

ens to treat the subject as a psychologist, but his volume is shot through with observations which are no more pertinent to psychology than to ballistics. The explanation is simple. His conclusions are drawn from the Lives of the great mystics, documents which were not written with a view to psychological investigation.

As a contribution to literature, the book is exceptionally well written. It suggests erudition without employing those scientific words and phrases which obstruct but do not instruct. The work is well-ordered and the notes are helpfully complementary to the text.

B. McC.

The Mediaeval Mind. By Henry Osborn Taylor. Fourth (American) Edition. 2 Vols. Pp. xix-603 and viii-620. New York. The Macmillan Company. \$8.00.

Those who are acquainted with the splendid work of Professor Taylor will welcome eagerly its fourth edition. The first edition appeared in 1911, and received favorable comment from scholars in all quarters, as it filled a long-felt want. The author traces the development of thought and emotion in the Middle Ages, and succeeds in dissipating to a great degree the false impression held by many that the Middle Ages were intellectually and romantically stagnant. He does not occupy himself with the brutalities of medieval life, nor with the lower grades of ignorance and superstition, but with the better informed, constructive spirit of the time. Starting with the Greek and Roman civilization, Professor Taylor considers their contributions to medieval life, interrupted by the descent of the Germanic tribes; then the development of Patristic thought followed later by Scholasticism, as exemplified in St. Thomas, Duns Scotus, and Dante. The emotional life of the Middle Ages is very skilfully handled. A new chapter on the Towns and Guilds, and one on the Crusades has been introduced into the second edition, since they were regarded as phases of medieval growth. In this present edition, some few statements have been altered, and some additional references to recent authorities inserted, but otherwise the work has remained materially unchanged. Those who have read the previous editions will approve the appearance of this one, and wish it the widespread success attained by its predecessors.

U. B.

Ireland. By Stephen Gwynn. Pp. 252. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons. \$3.00.

What is it that makes a nation persist through stress of circumstances when dynasties have vanished like a dream, and empires have joined the shadows of the things that were? What are those factors that go to mould the character of a people?

Stephen Gwynn in his book, "Ireland," attempts an answer to these questions. Not long as a history, nor dry as an encyclopedia, nor ephemeral as a magazine article, this book gives a survey of those circumstances and conditions which have moulded and are moulding the destinies of Ireland. Never was time more opportune for such a study when interest in international politics is unprecedented. Never did Ireland more sorely need the new friends this book will make for her, and the old lost friends it will restore to faith and trust.

No one will doubt the ability which the author brings to his task nor the patriotism which makes of it a labor of love. Here is a dispassionate study that is sublime in its simple appeal to the inner force of truth itself.

There is one chapter, however, that needs revision—that on Ireland's religion. Mr. Gwynn thinks that Ireland will not attain to complete nationhood unless she modifies her religion. He finds fault with the puritanical character of Catholicism, but let it be remembered that by Puritanism, he means asceticism, and in seeking to modify it, he is tabooing that spirit of mortification and self-sacrifice which is the crying need of our day. "He wanted to lift them up," wrote Canon Sheehan, "and lo! there they were on the summits of the eternal hills far above him." Ireland's religion is a vital force in her life: a supernatural something which cannot be sacrificed in the interests of political or economic expediency.

It is unfortunate that this spot should mar the beauty of an otherwise excellent work: a work which discovers the forces working in the sub-consciousness of Ireland, forces that give promise of a glorious future, as they are the heritage of an honorable past.

P. P.

Newman as a Man of Letters. By Joseph J. Reilly, Ph. D. Pp. ix-329. New York: The Macmillan Company. \$2.50.

Somewhere in the "Idea of a University," Newman presents his ideal of a great author. "He is master of the two-fold Logos, the thought and the word, distinct, but inseparable from each

other. . . . His page is the lucid mirror of his mind and life. . . . He always has the right word for the right idea, and never a word too much." If ever a man of letters measured up to this ideal, it is Newman himself.

It is a misfortune, then, that so many are strangers to Newman's works who would find in them a source of intense pleasure and who would derive from them a sound and healthy outlook on men and affairs. One reason for this state of things may be the dearth of books treating Newman from a purely literary point of view. A respectable library has been devoted to Newman, the leader of the Oxford Movement, the theologian and the philosopher, but according to Joseph J. Reilly, who has spent fifteen years in a study of Newman's life and writings, there is not "a single work of any length seriously devoted to a study of Newman as a man of letters except the volume of M. Faure which is accessible only in French."

To supply such a lamentable deficiency, Mr. Reilly has written "Newman as a Man of Letters." This volume treats of Newman as a man, as preacher, as novelist, as poet, historian and controversialist. It analyzes the two great masterpieces of Newman's pen, the "Idea of a University" and the "Apologia," and closes with a chapter on the "Significance of Newman." The author in his introduction states that the purpose of his book is "to try to appraise the merits and defects of Newman; to estimate the value of his work as literature; to find his place, as Matthew Arnold would say, in his century; and finally, to consider his significance to our generation." The highest praise that can be bestowed on the book is to say that the author has successfully accomplished his aim, and in such a way that it should long remain a standard work of its kind.

Indeed, Mr. Reilly is well equipped for his task. He possesses a thorough knowledge of Newman's life and writings, as well as a sympathetic understanding of both. Looking through his eyes, the admirer of Newman will discover new and unsuspected beauties in the works of his favorite author. He will likewise come to appreciate better the exquisite art which underlies the apparent simplicity of Newman's style.

Best of all, there is an objective quality about Mr. Reilly's judgments for they are based on norms of criticism safer than mere personal opinion. The book makes easy reading. Its

style, so graceful, clear and simple, leads the reader to feel that some of Newman's literary virtue has settled in the pen of Mr. Reilly.

J. McG.

DIGEST OF RECENT BOOKS

RELIGION, PHILOSOPHY: Father Martin J. Scott, S. J., has detected the serious question underlying the conflict between the Fundamentalists and Modernists over the Virgin Birth. If the Bible when it tells us that Jesus was born of a virgin is untrustworthy, then too it is untrustworthy in anything else that it teaches. If the Bible is not a divinely inspired book in all its parts then it is nothing. This is the important point at issue. This is why Father Scott, in his book *The Virgin Birth*, takes this question of Christ's miraculous birth as a test case and proves both the possibility and the fact. Father Scott has a gift for this type of writing. His arguments are clear, pointed, and clinched by singularly apt illustrations drawn from every-day life. His only fault, if it be serious enough to call a fault, is his intense condensation. Every sentence seems to form a premise of one long polysyllogism, and in places the skeleton of a vast argument is sketched in a single page. But in spite of the extent of the field covered, the route is always clear and not too difficult traveling. (Kenedy, \$2.00).

Readings From St. Augustine on the Psalms, selected and translated by Rev. Joseph Rickaby, S. J. is well named. It is not a commentary in the strict sense, but rather a selection of passages from the "Ennarationes in Psalmos" of St. Augustine. It consists of thoughts suggested by the psalms rather than of a precise explanation of their literal or mystical sense. Not all, although the greater part of the psalms are represented. The thoughts chosen contain the wonted wisdom of Augustine and Father Rickaby's translation leaves nothing to be desired. (Benziger).

In reading *L'Intercession des Saints*, by Pere M. J. Gerlaud, O. P., one will better comprehend the economy of the Communion of Saints, that threefold union of blessed in heaven, the souls in purgatory, and the faithful on earth, who unite in petitioning and adoring the great Triune God. The doctrine of this intercession drawn from Holy Scripture, the teaching of the Fathers, and the works of Saint Thomas is lucidly set forth by the author. God is shown the sole author of all grace, Christ the Perfect Mediator, Mary, our maternal mediatrix, and the saints in their place in the hierarchy of mediators. It is a work which should arouse our devotion and quicken our prayers of invocation. (Tequi, Paris. 3 fr.)

Every few years false prophets foretell the end of the world as imminent. Intellectuals that wrongly understand; minds warped with religious fanaticism fail to grasp the message of Christ's words voiced through the centuries by Holy Writ and Holy Mother the Church. The true doctrine on the question, Father D. I. Lanslots, O. S. B., summarizes in a popular apologetical way in his book, *The End of the World and of Man*. After briefly examining old Greek and Roman beliefs, he proceeds to a clear and satisfying exposition of the Catholic teaching. (Pustet, \$1.50).

Another treatise by the same author entitled *The Three Divine Virtues* contains a resume of the dogmatic theology on the three theological virtues, Faith, Hope, and Charity. For the priest who has been for some years away from his text-books or for the more advanced layman the work will prove highly satisfactory for from a technical point of view it is ex-

tremely well written. It is almost too somber, however, to make easy reading for the ordinary reader. (Pustet, \$1.50).

In a compact little volume no larger than a good sized prayer-book, Father Thomas W. Mullaney, C. SS. R. gives us **Matters Liturgical**, a translation and revision of the "Collectio Rerum Liturgicarum" of Rev. Joseph Wuest, C. SS. R. While it does not pretend to treat of the Sacred Liturgy in all of its details, it gives ready solution to all those liturgical questions which are more frequently confronting priests and seminarians. The typographical arrangement is clear, the index comprehensive, and the type exceptionally good. (Pustet, \$3.00).

Under the title **Saint Thomas Guide des Etudes** Professor L. Lauvaud of the Grand Seminaire of La Rochelle, gives us a complete commentary, in the form of notes, upon the encyclical "Studiorum Ducem" of Pope Pius XI. One finds it an excellent study of the sanctity and learning of the great Angelic Doctor. Great care is exercised in showing clearly the necessary inter-penetration of the spiritual and intellectual life and how well they were blended in Aquinas. Never were these two phases more harmoniously combined than in him; he was, as has been said, the most saintly among the learned and the most learned among the saints. (Tequi, Paris. 7 fr. 50).

An Elementary Handbook of Logic, by John J. Toohey, S. J., which has just reappeared in a new edition, is all that the title claims for it. It is a clear, concise, and eminently practical text-book in dialectic. All the chapters are complete, and cover their subject thoroughly enough; the one on "Fallacies" is exceptionally well done. The arrangement is a little out of the ordinary, the Praedicables and Categories, as well as Division and Definition being treated after the Syllogism. For some reason not explained, the classic definitions are avoided. (Schwartz, Kirwin & Fauss, \$1.60).

In **The Wisdom of the Hebrews** the editor, Brian Brown, unearths many of the treasures of Jewish literature and philosophy, but because of the fact that the Hebrews have been and are a religious people with definite teachings, his association of the writings of Spinoza, with those of the traditionalists seems incongruous. Certainly the spirit of both is directly opposed. While most of the excerpts included contain true wisdom, the book is by no means of equal quality throughout. (Brentano's, \$2.50).

In the psychology of today, there is a manifest reaction to the Psycho-mechanical parallelism of the last century. Scientific psychologists are again recognizing the necessity of a spiritual soul to explain thought, reflection and human action. It is this reflection of mechanical parallelism and the vindication of the doctrine of the human soul that constitutes the chief and, we think, the only real merit of Professor Hans Driesch's book, **The Crisis in Psychology**. Beyond this the book is commonplace and adds nothing to the numerous volumes on the subject of psychology. The professor is agnostic on issues of such great moment as the freedom of the will and the immortality of the soul, but is inclined to accept the probability of certain spiritualistic phenomena. (Princeton University Press, \$2.50).

HAGIOLOGY: To tell the story of the lowly daughter of a poor wine-dresser, to describe the religious congregation she founded, and to picture the great part played by that congregation in the religious restoration of France after the Revolution—this is the burden of Maude Monahan's little volume entitled **Saint Madeleine Sophie**. It comes as a fitting memo-

rial to this recently-canonized holy foundress of the Society of the Sacred Heart. (Longmans, \$1.25).

Father John P. Clarke, writer of "Her Little Way," has brought out a new book on the Little Flower in honor of her canonization. This latest volume, **A Rose Wreath for the Crowning of St. Therese of the Child Jesus**, does not detail her whole life, but seeks rather to catch her spirit and present her teaching to those who naturally incline toward a "saint of our own time." It is simply written and in its very tone breathes the calm devotion of "Little Therese." (Benziger, \$1.00).

With the publication of **La Bienheureuse Therese de l'enfant Jesus et la Vie de Victime**, Abbe Paulin Giloteaux becomes the author of two works upon the Little Flower. His earliest work, **Sainte Therese de l'Enfant Jesus**, just recently re-published in a revised edition and already popular in an English edition in England, is a portraiture of the spiritual life of Soeur Therese, while his latest book considers her in a more special way under the aspect of a Victim of divine love. Both works bear the imprint of knowledge of the subject and sympathy of treatment. They are certain to exert a great influence in the domain of souls. (Tequi, Paris, 5 fr. and 7 fr.)

In view of modern interest in psychology, psycho-therapeutics, and psycho-analysis, Abbe Arnaud d'Agnel's recent work, **Saint Vincent de Paul, Directeur de Conscience**, is certain of popularity for it is a study of that great spiritual director of souls which without minimizing the lofty supernatural spirit of the saint, his devotion to prayer, and his profound humility, discovers in him deep psychological insight, a due regard for the inter-relation of health and holiness, and ability to make skillful application of psycho-therapeutics in cases of neurotic penitents. It is a departure from our usual biographies of saints. It does not confuse natural gifts with sanctity, yet it does not on the other hand neglect the human side of the saint. (Tequi, Paris. 10 fr.)

Among those beatified during the past year, none claim a greater share of regard from the American people than the small band of early missionaries: Fathers Isaac Jogues, John de Brebeuf, Gabriel Lalemant, Noel Chabanel, Anthony Daniel, Charles Garnier, Rene Goupil, and John Lande. The story of these heroic pioneers is well told by Rev. John J. Wynn, S. J., in **The Jesuit Martyrs of North America**. This is the first connected and complete account of these martyrs to be published in this country. The narration of their thrilling lives among the Indians and the dreadful torments which they endured unflinchingly even to death should awaken in us a deeper appreciation of the religion we so easily enjoy. (Universal Knowledge Foundation, \$1.50).

POLITICS, SOCIOLOGY: A scholarly analysis of the basic principles and circumstances of American political and social life is drawn up by Jesse Lee Bennet in **The Essential American Tradition**. This is done principally by means of extended quotations from famous public speeches and national documents. Being a comparative study of these addresses and state papers in the light of fundamental principles its tracings are but general. The work stands a decided contribution to the study of American polity and American civic literature. (Doran, \$3.00).

The second edition of **A Handbook to the League of Nations** by Sir Geoffrey Butler contains in addition to a thorough description of the League, an account of what has been accomplished during the first five years of its operation, and an appendix of all the chief pertinent documents. The book will prove very satisfactory to the student or the statesman who desires something more than a mere newspaper knowledge of the League's organization and operation. (Longmans, \$3.75).

Social Problems and Agencies is a survey of the major social problems, the organizations operating to combat them, and the proper methods to afford relief. The work is edited by Rev. Henry J. Spaulding, S. J., and the different papers on the problems treated were prepared by experts of recognized standing. The methods of amelioration employed by various social agencies are reviewed and the whole study is frankly constructive. (Benziger, \$2.50).

Boy Guidance, edited by Father Kilian Hennerich, O. M. Cap., is in every sense what it claims to be, namely, a thorough course in Catholic Boy Leadership. Every chapter is not merely highly instructive but carries within itself an inspiration for those who are real lovers of boys and aspire to be their leaders. Every chapter is written by a leader laboring within his own sphere and giving us the fruit of his best effort. We have every reason to believe that this symposium will receive a hearty welcome in the present-day movement of Boy Leadership. (Benziger, \$2.00).

ESSAYS, CRITICISM: A strange medley of personages and personalities has been assembled in the fourteen short essays which compose **Eighteenth Century Studies** by Robert Bracey, O. P. Stern old Doctor Johnson turns from the tiger to the kitten, Boswell ceases to be a toad and a bore, even the much maligned Talleyrand forgets his wives and closes his eventful history in submission and penance. These sprightly studies partake more of the air of rich conversation than of chill scholarship. Father Bracey has encountered some few facts about interesting people and he shares his find with the rest of the world in a delightful manner. (Appleton).

The Cruise of the Nona is a book about ships and men and the sea by a writer who has a broad acquaintance with the world, past and present. It contains the thoughts and memories that have passed through Hilaire Belloc's mind while sailing the seas of Britain in his nine-ton boat, the Nona. Thoughts and judgments by a man of Mr. Belloc's experience are well worth reading, and here they are presented in a frame of sea and sky and rugged coast that is often exciting and always delightful. In the more thoughtful parts it is a mature and scholarly expression of utter contempt for the modern world, softened by reflections on a better past and a future devoutly to be hoped for. (Houghton Mifflin, \$4.50).

With a brilliant inclusive glance at the past and a longer and more detailed view of the present, Clement Wood in **Poets of America** looks to the future with an assured hope of real poetry to come that will stand out by itself as really American. Himself a partaker in America's poetic Renaissance, the author shows a fine appreciation of his subject and connects his excerpts with easy grace in a running and vivid manner. The chapter entitled "Sappho's Cousins" and that devoted to folk-songs are among his best. (Dutton, \$3.00).

SCIENCE: A companion volume to J. H. Fabre's "The Heaven's" reviewed in these pages last June, is **The Wonder Book of Plant Life** by the same author and translated by Bernard Miall. Fabre was not only a keen observer and a devoted naturalist, but he was a remarkably lucid teacher. This volume sufficiently establishes his reputation as a botanist. It explains the whole phenomena of plant life in a way both pleasing and comprehensible. For every lover of nature it is a book worth reading and for every school, one worth placing on the library shelves. (Lippincott, \$5.00).

The beauty of the hills and streams, of the lofty mountains and the flooding ocean tides has been celebrated time and again in prose and verse, but it is extremely rare that a scientist gives expression to any but the coldly scientific aspect of these glories of nature. Junius Henderson in his **Geology in its Relation to Landscape** does not bother the reader with a multitude of technical names and classifications, but allows him to enjoy

the magnificence of God's creation even while imbibing a strictly scientific conception of the marvellous forces and energies that fashion the topography of our earth. There is a chapter on "Lakes" that will delight and repay a hundredfold in its perusal. (Stratford, \$2.50).

The Amateur Photographer's Handbook by A. Frederick Collins is a book both for the beginner and for the adept in the art of photography. It adequately explains basic principles, processes of exposing the film, developing, printing, enlarging, and other like questions without resorting to too great technicalities. It moreover contains a wealth of hints which, if followed, will produce results nearing perfection; and its survey of the history, present state, and latest developments of photography keeps it from being a mere book of directions. (Crowell, \$2.50).

FICTION: It is an interesting if not a flattering portrait of Cecil Rhodes, the great "Empire Builder" of South Africa, which John Presland presents in the pages of **Dominion**. Rhodes as Premier of Cape Colony countenances an unscrupulous conspiracy to overthrow Boer rule in the Transvaal. A woman with whom Rhodes had become involved reveals the plot to the Boer government. Other reverses ensue. Incidentally, the reader is made acquainted with the economic factors that enter into the making of modern history. (Stokes, \$2.00).

Faith Baldwin tells in **Those Difficult Years** of two young married people who found life dull after settling down from their honeymoon. It depicts the obstacles that confront young people during the unfolding and development of the most daring venture of their lives—marriage. Luckily they overcome the temptation to divorce and find in their child an interest which effectively crowds out boredom and makes "those difficult years" quite happy after all. (Small, Maynard, \$2.00).

To those who love adventure and thrilling tales, **The Ancient Highway** by James Oliver Curwood, will well repay the time spent in its reading. It is Curwood in his atmosphere of love, gallantry, and rugged strength, but Curwood in a new setting. Instead of the snowy North and the Northwest Mounted we encounter romantic Quebec and Montreal, and Clifton Brant, an exile of many years come back to take revenge upon one who has ruined his home and cheated him of his birth-right. It is a thrilling story without taint. (Cosmopolitan, \$2.00).

Harry Sinclair Drago's **The Snow Patrol** is another stirring novel of the North. It will also appeal to lovers of mystery, for while revealing the amazing grandeur of that rugged Arctic land, the story also unfolds the complications of a crime and its detection by the Mounted Police. With a view of being realistic as possible, the author has unfortunately gone to an extreme; he is clever in his description of vice and degeneracy, but he inculcates no desire for virtue. (Macaulay, \$2.00).

Charles Major, author of "Dorothy Vernon of Haddon Hall," has named his latest heroine **Rosalie**. In the novel of that name he narrates the story of a physician of a century ago who after persecution from members of his profession because of his advanced ideas is forced to flee to Canada with Rosalie, the girl who assists him escape. Their perils and adventurous life keep the point of excitement high. While the book sets no new standard of workmanship or literary quality, it is pleasing and safe. (Macmillan, \$2.00).

Gregorian Stories, 1925, as usual gives us a collection of clever stories by some of the most able British short story writers of today. The fifteen stories included this year exhibit skillful writing and do not lack interest value, but too many of them deal with unlovely marital infidelities to win unqualified approval as wholesome reading. (Putnams, \$2.50).

HISTORY, BIOGRAPHY: A novel presentation of history is given by Julius E. Devos in **Fifteen Hundred Years of Europe**. Taking the various nations separately, he treats each under a triple aspect: first comes a panoramic view of the entire period, followed by monographs on leading events and personages, and lastly a complete chronology is given. This method, together with the genealogical tables and a copious index, makes this a valuable work for the busy man to have at hand for consultation. The only fault one might find is that Father Devos is apt to be too dogmatic when discussing the guilt of Germany in the last war. (O'Donnell Press, Chicago. \$5.00).

In an effort to arouse the latent possibilities of leadership in the South, Prof. Howard Odum has brought together under the title **Southern Pioneers** a number of biographical sketches of the most illustrious sons of the South. To the collection he has prefaced a vigorous paper on the present outlook, analyzing carefully what he believes to be the retarding factors and what the most hopeful for the rise of outstanding leaders in the near future. This introduction is valuable in itself as an estimate of the South, but the chief interest of the book for the general reader will naturally lie in the biographical essays. Such men as Woodrow Wilson, Walter Hines Page, Joël Chandler Harris, and Booker T. Washington are well discussed with intimate, sympathetic interpretation. (University of North Carolina Press, \$2.00).

The Growth of the United States, by Ralph Volney Harlow, is designed to present the history of the United States from 1492 to 1925 in the form of a text-book for colleges. The writer follows the time-worn method of the school of political historians whose thesis is that political institutions and events are the casual influences in historic development—a thesis long since thoroughly discredited by progressive historians. Hardly sufficient space in the book is devoted to economic factors in the growth of the United States, almost no mention is made of the more important social factors, and no reference whatever to the biggest factor of all, the religious. The complete omission of all reference to religious and social factors is indefensible on any grounds. However, as one more of the conventional political histories of the United States, the work is a distinct advance over some of its predecessors because of the frank, refreshing, and definite judgments passed on many events in American history about which there has clung for too long the halo of legendary sanctity. In some places the author gives the impression of having been more lenient in his judgments than he personally would have liked, but excuse for this may be found in the fact that this is meant as a text-book for college students, and not as a work for finished scholars. (Holt, \$5.00).

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

- Conversations on Christian Re-Union.** By a Parish Priest. A summary of Catholic Apologetics showing points of convergence and divergence between Catholic and Protestant teachings. (Murphy, \$1.25).
- Rebuilding a Lost Faith.** By John L. Stoddard. A paper edition of one of the best apologetical works of recent years. (Kenedy).
- Vocations.** By Rev. William Doyle, S. J.
- In Quest of Faith.** By Floyd Keeler. And **Why I Am a Catholic.** By John Meyer.
- Devotion to the Sacred Heart.** And **A Word Upon the Rosary.** By Msgr. Moyes.
- Reasons for Being a Catholic.** By "E. H."
- The Sacrament of Penance.** By Rev. Matthew J. W. Smith. Five pamphlets from The International Catholic Truth Society.
- L'Epouse attrait du Foyer.** By Abbe Charles Grimaud. A book of practical instruction for wives who wish to make home-life happy. (Tequi, Paris, 7 fr.)
- Conferences Spirituelles.** By Msgr. Chapon. The second volume of a series of conferences given to religious. (Tequi, 7 fr. 50).
- Le Catechisme vecu a Lourdes.** By E. Duplessy and Dr. A. Marchand. A series of discourses from the catechism arranged for each day of May and October, with an account of a cure at Lourdes for each day. (Tequi, 7 fr.)
- La Sainte Euchariste.** By Rev. Jacques Gerber, S. J. A resume of the moral theology of the Holy Eucharist as a sacrament and as a sacrifice. (Tequi, 5 fr.)
- Panegyrique de la Bienheureuse Therese de l'Enfant Jesus.** By Rev. Marie-Amand de Saint-Joseph, O. C. D. (Tequi, 1 fr. 5).
- Prete? Pourquoi pas?** By Abbe Charles Grimaud. A booklet to attract boys to the priesthood. (Tequi, 3 fr. 60).
- La France Catholique organisee.** By Msgr. Gibier. An explanation of Catholic organization in France as a protection of Catholic rights. (Tequi, 10 fr.)
- Christian Doctrine Drills.** Compiled by a Sister of Mercy. The pith of the Catechism arranged for rapid drill work. (Hansen, Chicago).
- Breve Curriculum Vitae Eminentissimi Jubilaris Card. Fruhwirth.** (Manutio, Rome).
- The Catholic Press Directory—1925.** The second edition of a list of all the Catholic periodicals in the United States. (Meier, Chicago, \$1.00).