



**The Epistles of St. Paul, Vol. II.** By Charles J. Callan, O.P., S.Th.M. ix-488 pp. New York: Joseph F. Wagner, Inc. \$5.00.

This book, which as Volume II, completes Father Callan's exegetical study of the Epistles of St. Paul, represents, as did the first volume, an attempt to set before the English-speaking clergy a commentary which scans quite thoroughly that vast fertile expanse of the Pauline Letters. It is also an effort to furnish the preacher and the student with a working knowledge of Pauline theology and to indicate to some extent the real meaning of the many obscurities in the text.

The contents of this volume embrace ten Epistles, viz., Ephesians, Phillipians, Colossians, Philemon, I and II Thessalonians, I and II Timothy, Titus and Hebrews. The method followed by the author in the consideration of the respective Epistles is to offer a special introduction before taking up the textual exegesis of the Letters. In these introductory chapters the author discusses such vibrant and interesting topics as date, place of composition, destination, purpose and occasion of the Epistle. They also include a concise analysis of the principal theme of the individual Epistles.

It is the author's sincere hope that this commentary may exert at least some influence in bringing to the English-speaking preacher a realization of the inexhaustible mine of homiletic treasure latent in the Epistles of one who was himself a great preacher. Certainly Father Callan has done much to widen the horizons of and to open up new vistas on the field of Sacred Oratory. The book lays bare those gleaming gems of Pauline thought and language which are invaluable assets for the preacher.

The reader glancing over the scholarly bibliography appended to the study of each Epistle will at once become aware of the imposing scientific proportions which the book assumes. The author has tapped those rich lodes of Scriptural learning, the key languages of Pauline research. He has rendered into English within comparatively brief compass and in a form which

facilitates ready assimilation the life-time labors of the great Pauline commentators. This feature alone, aside from the other good points of the work—and it has many—would serve to commend the book to the scriptural scholar, be he specialist or tyro.

One cannot fail to grasp the comprehensive significance and the remarkable possibilities of Father Callan's work as a class manual or text book. While it makes no pretence of exhausting its subject matter, and is therefore for the advanced student of the Epistles a suggestive rather than an exhaustive study, nevertheless, for the seminarian, it may prove to be a serviceable, interesting, fairly thorough treatment of its subject. We single out one factor which considerably enhances the value of the commentary as a text book. This factor is the splendid special introductory study with which the author has prefaced each Epistle. This special introduction considers in simple, clarified perspective all those preliminary notions requisite to a proper study of the Epistles.

Some readers may be inclined to disagree with but all must respect the explanations advanced by Father Callan supported as they are by names writ large on the bead-roll of scriptural scholarship. This book carries all the imprints of painstaking work and on the score of scholarship and accuracy will bear close scrutiny.

R. G.

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**The Doctrine of the Mystical Body of Christ.** By Abbé Anger. Translated by Rev. John J. Burke, C.S.P., S.T.D. xxxix-399 pp. New York: Benziger Bros. \$4.50.

Superlatives are dangerous words and we do not often risk their application, yet if we were asked offhand to name the most important book published in 1931, our answer would be: "Father Burke's translation of *The Doctrine of the Mystical Body of Christ*." It is a complete, orderly and intensely practical work dealing with a basic Catholic doctrine that comprehends, unifies and vitalizes the whole field of supernatural religion; a doctrine that is the unknown reality hungrily sought by millions of groping minds that are feverishly seeking the balm to heal and the bond to unite the fragments of scattered and disorganized humanity. Frantic attempts are being made to stay the disintegration of the economic structure, to bring harmony and good will to the rescue of strained political relationships, to find some unifying principle with the power to make all men realize that they are really brothers. But there can be no brotherhood of man without the Fatherhood of God, and He has offered us sonship through incorporation with Christ, His Son and our Brother. The implications

are infinite because of the infinite fruitfulness of the Divine Life held out to us, if we will but accept it by incorporation in the Mystical Body of Christ.

To clerics, be they priests or students, the book will be an inexhaustible mine of practical theology, the means of making all the truths they have learned radiate from a common center and be illumined by a common light, the Light of the world.

To the laity, the book can well become the necessary handbook and guide in the supernatural phases of Catholic Action, the broad and well-marked way to an intelligent appreciation of the life of the Church in her members.

Too much praise can not be given Father Burke for making this indispensable book available in a smooth and pleasing translation. It should be in the hands of every Christian who would have a practical, living understanding of "the excelling beauty of the Church whose Head is Christ".

G. C. R.

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**George Washington.** By Louis M. Sears. xiv-560 pp. New York: Thomas Y. Crowell Co. \$5.00.

The fact that the year 1932 marks the bicentenary of the birth of George Washington has undoubtedly added fresh impetus to the output of books dealing with our first President. Professor Louis M. Sears, of Purdue University, drawing from a rich mine of fundamental and secondary sources, has produced a bulky volume of some five hundred pages with every variety of event and episode and anecdote touching the life of Washington.

Professor Sears, while he professes to have nothing in common with the exponents of the "superman legend," nevertheless, refrains from joining the ranks of that pestiferous literary group better known as the professional "debunkers." On the whole, the author maintains the position of his convictions which is the medium between the extremes. He has written a long factual narrative in a simple style with a charming absence of pretension. This style enhances the value and fascination of the book. The wealth of documentary material which Professor Sears has brought to bear upon his subject might possibly preclude this work from being classed as a keen and vivid analysis of the man, Washington. This is not the case. While Professor Sears places special emphasis on the recording of dates and events in their relation to the career of our first President he does not, thereby, narrow the analytical approach to his principal character. Beneath the lengthy recounting of dates and battles, of Congressional sessions and intrigue we catch intimate glances of Washington in a

variety of moods and circumstances. The book bears brilliant testimony to Professor Sears' ability as an historian. Facts spring to attention at his command. He marshals them in serried ranks. They rush forward, hurtling, driving and pounding their way in support of the author's convictions.

The division of the book roughly falls under three general headings. The first part considers the military career of Washington. The second section has to do with Washington as President. The final chapters of the book reveal Washington in the glorious sunset of his life. There is little or nothing related concerning the boyhood of Washington, due mainly to the dearth of reliable sources on that particular period. Professor Sears presents a harrowing description of the difficulties confronting Washington as commander in the field. He does not mince words in detailing how an ill-formed and at times an unreasonably jealous Congress hampered Washington's best efforts to preserve discipline in his army. The Conway Cabal, the disgraceful if not outright treacherous behavior of General Lee at Monmouth, the petty jealousy of Gates, the hero of Saratoga, all these incidents receive due consideration and are advanced as discouraging obstacles to the success of the cause. That Washington could and did surmount them adds considerably to the lustre of his greatness and glory. Professor Sears has an axe to grind with those who criticize Washington on the grounds of military incompetency and he whets it to a razor-edged keenness.

It would appear that Professor Sears slightly underestimates the far-reaching consequences of the battle of Saratoga and the influence and success of Benjamin Franklin at the court of the Ancien régime. In commenting on the Long Island campaign the author rears a formidable case against Washington's decision to defend the island in the face of Britain's maritime might and then by some inexplicable alchemy twists the entire case to Washington's credit.

The book is a well-written, thoroughly documented study of the life, career and historical background of our first President. Professor Sears makes lavish use of the tactical map and his bibliography will meet the demands of the most scholarly. The book, in fine, represents a readable, correct and fascinating account of the life and deeds of that historical figure who single-handed has wrought the initial chapter of our nation's brilliant history.

R. G. F.

**The Catholic Faith.** By Paul Elmer More. 312 pp. Princeton: Princeton University Press. \$4.00.

In *The Catholic Faith*, Paul Elmer More gives us, in five essays, the fruits of his profound scholarship and thought on what must be, to him, as to all thinking men, the most important subject confronting the human mind. For the Catholic who has mistakenly permitted his assurance of the integrity and Divinity of his Faith to generate arrogance toward those who sincerely disagree with him, it will be very easy to dismiss the book as naturalistic, wrong-headed and incomplete in its conception of Catholicism. But though the work has, indeed, faults of this type, they have no proportion whatsoever to its importance as a clear-cut affirmation of ideals and values that we have often thought we stood alone in defending. That such a book could be written in our day and age will be a hopeful sign to those who have almost despaired of preserving our intellectual and spiritual heritage in the deadening atmosphere of a machine-mad world.

Yet in spite of its tremendous significance and general excellence, we believe that the book is definitely below the standard of scholarship so uniformly maintained in the other volumes in the series, "*The Greek Tradition*," of which it is the last. To differ gently in religious matters is always difficult; occasionally Dr. More finds it too difficult. Moreover, on some theological and philosophical questions, the errors made are inexcusable. Both criticisms apply, for example, to Dr. More's discussion of the incompatibility of God's mercy and justice, where he speaks of "the blunder of Rome in her theory of pardons and indulgences at the whim of a priest" (p. 106). No comment is necessary. Again, Dr. More is unconvincing when he attacks the rationality of scholastic philosophy in its application to the Eucharist. The criticism grows caustic, even abusive; and in proportion sacrifices clarity and force, till Dr. More finally packs his whole thought into a single sentence: "Scholasticism is not an escape from, but a disguise of, the raw credulity of the dark ages" (p. 142). The sentence is the key to the explanation of Dr. More's consistent misunderstanding and consequent misrepresentation of the Thomistic philosophy of the Eucharist, a misunderstanding that runs through the entire essay. The sentence should never have been written. Universal knowledge is rare; we can easily understand and allow for unfamiliarity with Scholasticism, but it is surprising that a learned man should permit his unfamiliarity to betray him into making a statement so ridiculous. Dr. More has profound reasons for considering Platonism "the most imposing and the most satisfactory philosophy the brain of man has devised," and it is an opinion with which we can

sympathize without entirely agreeing, yet his harsh strictures against Thomism had been better omitted.

In the essay on "The Church," Dr. More is at his best, wielding a blade of dialectic worthy of the most subtle Scholastic. We follow him through thirty-six brilliant pages of thrust and parry. Straw falls on every side until he cleaves through to the Rock, and there we leave him, sword in hand, while we go up to pray.

The last essay, "Christian Mysticism," is the only dull section of the book, and contributes little to a delicate and difficult subject, for the very good reason that justice cannot be done mysticism without the background of a deep and extensive knowledge of theology.

In conclusion, let us say that the objections we have registered cannot lessen our appreciation of a truly great work, broadly conceived, splendidly thought out and beautifully written. G. C. R.

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**The Outlook for Literature.** By Ashley H. Thorndike. x-200 pp. New York: The Macmillan Co. \$1.50.

Professor Ashley H. Thorndike, author of several books on literature, adds another to the growing stack of commentaries on the art of letters. In this volume the author speculates on readers, writers, the novel and poetry. He employs both narration and analysis as his method of approach. He sees in our present culture reasons for saying that the chief characteristic of its future literature will be nationalism. We have, however, a quarrel with him in his chapter devoted to "Belief and Behavior." There he states the old calumnies against the Church and religion. He condones the corruption found in our literature as a revolt, by some hazy reflex action, against the exact and systematic tendencies of our scientific age. While this book might be an honest critic's honest estimate it can scarcely be called a completely true one. Its value as critical literature approaches the useful and it casts a gleam of light on the psychology of letters, yet it presents nothing new. Might we not, however, quote:

"Tho old the thought and oft expressed,  
'Tis his at last who says it best"?

R. C.

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**Catholic Colonial Maryland.** By H. S. Spalding, S.J. xv--242 pp. Milwaukee: The Bruce Publishing Co. \$2.50.

Father H. S. Spalding, in his preface, explains that he has no theories to present and that he wishes to avoid controversy. His is the simple task of telling in beautiful language the story of Mary-

land's pioneers during the Colonial period. To accomplish this purpose he found it necessary to build his work around the two basic elements in the lives of the Colonists, namely, the religious and the social elements.

The religious element began with a Protestant gentleman, George Calvert, Secretary of State to his Majesty, James I, of England. Calvert, later Lord Baltimore, became a Catholic, and then resigned his office. As England was persecuting his co-religionists he planned a colony where religious freedom might be granted to all. His first attempt was to colonize Newfoundland. This was a complete failure. He next obtained a charter for Maryland but died before he could complete the details of colonization. His son, Cecil, the second Lord Baltimore, completed the plans. Leonard Calvert, brother of Cecil, conducted the expedition. The party landed on a small island in Chesapeake Bay on the feast of the Annunciation, March 25, 1634. Shortly afterward they removed to the mainland, calling their settlement St. Mary's. The peace of the colony was soon disturbed by the arrival of malcontents from other colonies, who began to deprive the settlers of their own legally established liberty. Nevertheless, through the influence of their sons religious liberty became a part of the constitution of the United States.

Socially, many of the Maryland colonists were of England's best families. The educated classes prevailed. At St. Mary's culture was at a high standard and in many respects it surpassed that of any other colony. Maryland lost this part of her cultural system when bigoted legislators closed the Jesuit schools. It is inspiring to read of the great sacrifices undergone by these Maryland Catholics to send their children to continental Europe for Catholic education. Antagonism became so strong after the Revolution that the Catholic settlers moved to Kentucky and Ohio.

Father Spalding does not confine his study to any particular section of the colony, or to the Catholic settlers alone. He speaks with admiration of Maryland's settlers wherever he found them. Their ideals, although defeated for a time, found permanent expression in the principles of freedom and justice of that great government in the establishment of which the Maryland colonists played so prominent a part.

This admirable contribution to the forthcoming tricentennial of the founding of Maryland is a real benefit to book-lovers and to lovers of history.

J. L. C.

**Essays of a Catholic.** By Hilaire Belloc. 319 pp. New York: The Macmillan Co. \$2.50.

The essays of an author usually represent his most painstaking and serious efforts. In them he exposes his philosophy of life, the principles which underlie and color, unconsciously perhaps, all his work. Read a man's essays and you can infallibly predict the general tenor of his writings in other branches of literature. Thus the key to the motive behind such books as "The Servile State," "Cranmer," "Wolsey," "Richelieu," and so forth, may be drawn from Mr. Belloc's essays wherein he is revealed as a most militant member of the Church Militant.

In *Essays of a Catholic* Mr. Belloc gives his mature thought on some of the vital, dynamic issues of the day. Paradoxically enough for these times, he is well qualified to render judgments which are worthy of the serious consideration of intelligent men. As an historian, Mr. Belloc has done more than any other to expose what he calls "the false history which has been used to undermine the Catholic faith in the minds of men, to shake the confidence of Catholics in themselves, or to confirm in error those who are brought up in error." But Mr. Belloc is more than an historian. He is a philosopher who delights to venture forth in his open boat upon the starlit sea to muse in the grip of Power upon the impotence of Man. He is—or was—a politician in the happy sense of the term and manifests an exceeding disgust with the hypocrisy and venality of the present-day variety. In short, Hilaire Belloc is one of the few really educated men in public life to-day and his opinion is entitled to consideration.

Readers of this review who agree with the reviewer that the mass of current literature is frothy, bizarre, confusing rather than elucidating in diction and sadly deficient in substance, will find *Essays of a Catholic* exhilarating and bracing as a draught of cool spring-water after a diet of champagne, cocktails and stale beer. Spring-water is clear, translucent and simple; one feels secure in drinking it because one can detect impurities at a glance. So with the *Essays*; clarity of style, translucence of argument, and simplicity of word give one a feeling that all is well, at least that bodies foreign to truth easily may be detected by the eye of the intellect.

We recommend this series of essays to all who are interested in the reestablishment of Catholicism as the religion and culture of the world. It contains penetrating analyses from the Catholic viewpoint of such vital topics as New Paganism, Church and State, propagation of true History, Catholic Press, Science and Truth, Catholic Schools, the Faith and Industrial Capitalism. These are very valuable. But

most important is the proposal of a little-used mode of combatting the universal anti-Catholic spirit. It is, at the same time, an invitation to all intelligent Catholics to enlist in the struggle of Truth against universal complacency with falsehood and error. We consider the point important enough to quote at length with the hope that it will arouse the serious thought of our readers. Mr. Belloc writes: "To undermine the crude false philosophy opposed to us, to loosen its hold on the masses by ridicule of its ignorance, exposure of its errors, satire of its pompous self-assurance and isolation, is a task open to any man. The method is easily available. But it involves very unpleasant consequences to the agent. We need such agents, none the less. Without them we shall do nothing. As it seems to me we need Tertullians. *We must be militant*. There were, perhaps, in the past, moments when that spirit was unwise; today, it seems to me demanded by a just judgment of the situation. Our society has become a mob. The mob loves a scrap, and it is right. We must attack the enemy in his form of rationalistic *science* we must analyse and expose his hidden false postulates, so that the individuals who hold those postulates shall be brought to shame—but to bring a man to shame makes him angry. His anger, I think, is a test of our success".

"We must expose the confusion of thought in the opposing camp; its ignorance of the world and of the past, its absurd idols. And in doing so we must face, not only ideas—which is easy—but men, the defenders of those ideas—which is difficult. We must wound and destroy".

"As for those who maintain that militancy is barren, I will reply with the precisely contrary truth, that conflict is the mother of all things. The most powerful ally one can have is fashion, and fashion is set when a battle is won. But a battle is not won without wounds."

Some people may be shocked at these words. They have become accustomed to the Church on the defensive, forced into a policy of watchful waiting. The results have been meager enough. Circumstances no longer demand a defensive attitude. The time is ripe for our counter-attack which will sweep away the barriers of falsehood and error behind which is entrenched the non-Catholic world. Only when these barriers have been removed will the enemy be exposed to our shafts of truth and love. Destruction of our opponents' position is necessary before we can lead men, willing prisoners, into our camp, the Church.

We should like to see this volume of essays carefully read by every student in our Catholic Colleges and Universities. They are

the potential champions of Catholic truth in the growing movement of Catholic Action. They will find many tid-bits of wisdom within the covers of this book. Provocative of thought are the following:

"With the loss of the Faith our civilization will slip back not only into Paganism, but into barbarism with the accompaniments of Paganism, and especially the institution of slavery." (The New Paganism)

"A sum of money lent has, according to our present scheme, a natural right to interest. That principle is false in economics as in morals." (Usury)

"It is inevitable there should appear in any Absolute State . . . laws which no Catholic will obey. There will follow upon that what the State calls the punishment of disobedience, and what Catholics always called, and will once again call, persecution." (Church and State)

"It is all part of the modern process which others than Catholics are beginning to realize, that, outside the Faith, men are abandoning reason." (The Faith and Capitalism)

But read the whole book if you are looking for progressive ideas!  
I. M.

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**Our Changing Theatre.** By R. Dana Skinner. xvii-327 pp. New York: Lincoln MacVeagh, The Dial Press. \$3.00.

Because of the pre-eminence which Richard Dana Skinner enjoys in the field of dramatic criticism, not a little authority attaches to his opinions concerning it. For more than thirty years he has been in constant attendance at the theatre and has been privileged to see her in high and low estate. Yet his love for everything that "theatre" means has not diminished in the least but greatly increased with his concern for her well-being, until to-day he is, more than ever in the past, her most valiant champion. His present study, then, is invaluable not alone to the professional student of the drama, but equally to every play-goer who is vitally interested in the future of the American Stage and whose interest in the drama is more than casual and superficial. To the theatre-goers, who class as sophisticates and who are emotionally moribund, this book will be devoid of meaning.

Mr. Skinner identifies his whole purpose in writing this book with a plea for the theatre of the future, "the real theatre—the theatre of illusion, of poetry and romance—the theatre that is not a mere transcript of yesterday's front page." At a time when stark realism and lurid filth stalk across the board and patent pessimism dominates the critic's column, Skinner remains hopeful, seeing in the future the

glory of the theatre in America when once she has successfully passed through the awkward age. His optimism is founded upon his analysis of the plays of the past and the present, especially the latter. Guided by the highest ethical standards and the severest literary canons (not to mention his extraordinary good taste and sound judgment) he probes beneath the surface of the modern drama, separates the gold from the dross, showing us how much is real drama and how much is mere drivel. He considers separately and at length our best playwrights and actors—what of value they have contributed to the theatre in the past and to what extent their talents can be expected to develop in the future—and his conclusions are eminently fair and more than interesting. Not less important are his chapters on the art of acting, producing and play criticism. Throughout, his analysis is keen and judgment sound. If at times he seems cruel and relentless in his attack upon the many false values of our modern drama, it is solely because he is actuated by an innate love of the theatre and naturally desires to see her purged of every imperfection.

Critics have been unanimous in their praise of this book. One, Walter Pritchard Eaton, has written of it: "I should hail Dana Skinner's book, even if I didn't chime in with so much of it, because all the way through it has a consistent attitude of approach to the theatre, and a fine one, both sympathetic and highminded. . . . What Skinner needs is a wider audience—and I pray this volume may secure it for him. He is one of the voices crying in the present dramatic wilderness, where a despairing and half-defeated stage is struggling with a mechanized and tabloidized screen. . . ."

C. L.

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**He Made Them Twain.** By Bird S. Coler, LL.D. xv-176 pp. New York: Educational Press, \$2.50.

Gradually the advocates of "companionate marriage" are introducing themselves into all classes of society. Their doctrines are boldly offered as a remedy for the defects of our social order. They have been leading us, or attempting to, to believe there is something radically wrong with our social order, and therefore it must be reformed.

Mr. Coler considers the remedy proposed by these social reformers. Companionate marriage, they say, will remedy the defect of inequality of sexes, will afford an opportunity for greater experience, will have no binding force and will be ill-suited for the purposes of procreation, since that will not be desirable. Mr. Coler, wishing to keep unsullied the word "marriage," more properly calls such

relation "companionism." He very forcefully and convincingly points out that "companionism" has none of the healing qualities so artfully and vociferously claimed by its protagonists. Quite the contrary, "companionism" is diagnosed to be the last symptom of a decayed society. Marriage, in its true meaning, as it is commanded by religion, sanctioned by man privately and governmentally, and in accordance with the natural and supernatural order, is the foundation of society, the guarantee of the right of man to property possession, the safeguard of progeny, the basis of government and the source of human happiness. Mr. Coler shows that history testifies to the stability and healthy condition of that society which is sanely based on marriage; likewise it bears witness to the death of that society which has allowed itself to become infected with the disease of "companionism." Except for its name, "companionism" is not something new in the history of man, for it has many times been repudiated by him through the ages. Mr. Coler states that whether "companionism" is considered from the standpoint of history, or biology, or religion, or social science, or economics or present day experience it will inevitably result in the destruction of the basis of our civilization, unhappiness for the individual and death for the nation that adopts it.

The work is well and wisely presented. It is readily understandable and will prove to be a wealthy source for serious thought to parents, to those who have the care of communities and to those who are fed up on the present flood of depraved literature.

J. T. McG.

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**A Conversation With a Cat.** By Hilaire Belloc. viii-227 pp. New York: Harper and Brothers. \$2.50.

Upon the wings of Belloc's beautiful and varied prose style we are carried in spirit on a pleasant journey. We go places and see people and things worth seeing. As we sit in the waiting room of a railway station our conductor enters into *A Conversation With A Cat* in which he avows "you are my cat and I am your human," even though a moment later she leaps from his lap and rubs herself against the leg of a total stranger "in token and external expression of a sacramental friendship that should never die."

As we await our train we watch the parade of all classes, whose diversity of ideas "On Dressing Up" adds variety to the scene "for all such things enhancing the multiplicity of life are something done in the image of God's own action upon His creation." Then we are off to some historic places to review the half-forgotten scenes of former greatness.

In our travels we are introduced to kings, courtiers, generals; we witness the death of Archbishop "Lord-on-the-Scaffold"; we listen to "The Conversation of the Condemned"; we look into "An Album of Contrasts" which, alas, will never be issued because such "things do not happen; or if they do, not at the moment when they would have yielded us the uttermost of delight."

To break the monotony of train travel, we alight and climb into "The Old Horse Bus" which brings us back to the good old days of yore "when petrol was an exceptional liquid." "What nobility there was in those days! How slowly came the evening, down upon the lanes and fields of my country—with what beneficence as of a sacred word putting an end to stress and ill-ease, the mists and half-darkness came on together over the vale between the great hills. There was no sound except the bells in the folds, or very far away the hoofs of a horse; and man, in the housing of man, his ways, the steeples of his worship, the smoke going up into the Autumn air from his hearths—all these were at one with what nature did around us, and joined together, whether they would or no, in a common act of peace and solemn adoration until night concluded all."

At the end of this delightful journey we come to "The Place of Peace." Whoever follows us in this journey will feel well repaid for his effort, because every page glows with that soft, iridescent light that can come from language only when used by one who loves language for its own sake, one who is sensitive to the fine flower of expression.

There are, however, two offensive passages which might have been left out of the book without detracting from its merit: the formerly unpublished poem which should have been left in oblivion, and the blasphemous ejaculation of Pertinax on page 209. V. M.

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**The Evidence for Immortality.** By Don P. Halsey. viii-175 pp. New York: The Macmillan Co. \$2.00.

Judge Don P. Halsey, of the Lynchburg Circuit Court, has a story to tell, a story we shall all some day know and fully understand. He upholds with the eloquence of an orator and the ardor of an apostle the immortality of the human soul. Beginning with a methodical doubt, considering for his purpose the dicta of theologians and scientists as not final, the author sets about his task with verve. If he can produce a "preponderance of probabilities" for his side of the case he will consider his point won in the "court of reason."

The work is founded, we believe, upon secondary sources. This is quite excusable, however, in a book written, as the author says,

"for the 'man in the street,' by one who himself belongs to that class." There is no pretense at being exhaustive in this study. Yet few of the more important arguments and "evidences" are passed over. Nature is the first witness for the defense. She eloquently and unhesitatingly testifies to the existence of a real, personal, self-existing First Cause, reverently called God. The existence of God postulates His Justice; and, as a corollary, the soul is immortal in order that God's Justice might be exercised in balancing the scale of man's deserts. Other phenomena in the world take the stand and strengthen the "evidence for immortality." The judgment of sages in different epochs is examined for its worth. Almost all men of learning quoted in this book are convinced that man will have "life after death."

To bring home to the present-day reading public this important reality is indeed a commendable purpose. We think Mr. Halsey succeeds. He has a happy faculty of gleaning from the teachings of men who have strayed far from the beaten path of sound philosophy. We cannot, however, agree with the author when he writes: "Spinoza is right when he says 'God is the immanent and not the extraneous cause of all things.'" Again, such a statement as "the millenium of darkness," designating the years from St. Augustine to St. Thomas Aquinas, cannot stand without qualification. Furthermore, Mr. Halsey is thoroughly in error when he says that the medieval thinker "dared not reach out into the unknown to solve the problems of man's origin and destiny." Our limited space will not permit a detailed comment on these inaccuracies, but we are convinced that the author's attitude springs entirely from misinformation.

As to the question itself, Mr. Halsey displays a vast knowledge, and in presenting that knowledge before the "court of reason" in language that is both simple and beautiful he has scored a victory.

R. C.

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**Questions of the Day.** By Rev. John A. Ryan, D.D., LL.D., Litt.D. 333 pp. Boston: The Stratford Co. \$3.00.

This splendid work may be best described as a successful endeavor to give a brief but accurate resumé of the most outstanding topics of the last few years. Excellent and timely was the author's decision to label his efforts "Questions of the Day." The trend of the moral, economic and political events of the past decade has brought to the attention of our people such vital issues as Birth Control, Unemployment, Prohibition, and many others enumerated by Dr. Ryan. Important questions indeed, for where can we find the man who has not been affected by them in some way? In *Questions*

*of the Day* the reader will have before him a complete account and a rational interpretation of these momentous topics. True, all will not agree with Dr. Ryan's opinions, yet they will be impelled to the conviction that at least he has a clear view of the situation—in fact a great deal clearer than have the many savants and philanthropists whose shallow judgments frequently seem to carry too much weight.

This book is a collection of twenty-three articles, some of which were published in various periodicals. They are arranged under four main headings.

The first part deals with Prohibition. Without mincing words, Dr. Ryan conveys the idea that he is very much opposed to the Eighteenth Amendment. Yet his assertion is substantiated by such an array of undeniable facts and evil consequences that one could hardly blame him for advocating a repeal, or at least some sort of a favorable modification. Akin to Prohibition there is a very interesting sketch on the rise and accomplishments of the Anti-Saloon League.

In the second part, "Catholics and Politics," he discusses some of the issues associated with the last Presidential campaign. In a clear, precise and convincing manner, Dr. Ryan explains the doctrine of Church and State, and demonstrates the fact that allegiance to the Church is in no way opposed to the American constitution.

The third and largest section is devoted to economic questions. It is here Dr. Ryan enters a field in which he is in many respects supreme. It can be said without hesitation that as an economist, Dr. Ryan is one whose judgments can be trusted and followed without hesitation. His endless study and careful investigations in this field have placed him in a position where he can speak as one having authority. We might venture a step further—Dr. Ryan's theories are so sane and rational that were they put into execution much could be accomplished in the way of alleviating the dire straits suffered by our modern economic world. The peak of achievement is reached in the discussion on Unemployment. The solution proposed is very simple, yet one that is worthy of a thorough consideration by those in power. If followed, it certainly would bring about the much-desired condition, to wit, a cohabitation of the desire to purchase and the power to purchase. On the question of unemployment, he exhorts the clergy to assume an active participation and thereby convey the conviction that the Church at all times stands as sponsor and attorney for the laboring man.

The last section deals with such miscellaneous topics as Catholicism and Liberalism, the New Morality and its Illusions, etc. Prob-

ably the most important are the discussions on Birth Control and Sterilization. The work comes to a fitting close with considerations of William Jennings Bryan and President Hoover.

*Questions of the Day* merits a wide and popular circulation. The book is attractively arranged and the style simple. It will not only impart useful and necessary information, but prove itself a strong foundation for further study and inquiry relative to the questions treated by Dr. Ryan.

F. J. F.

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**The Flame: St. Catherine of Siena.** By Jeanette Eaton, 318 pp. New York: Harper and Brothers. \$2.50.

There have been few women in history who have played a more important and vital role in shaping the destiny of Europe than St. Catherine of Siena. Consequently her life-story has ever proved itself to be a fertile and inexhaustible field for historians and biographers of many nationalities. Jeanette Eaton, whose biographical pen has been devoted almost exclusively to recording the life-stories and ideals of the great feminine figures in history, in her latest book has produced a short, competent and interesting study of Catherine Benincasa, the Virgin and Saint of Siena.

This book, entitled *The Flame*, seems to be intended primarily for readers of the high school age. It exerts a farther reaching appeal. The adult reader, be he scholar or clerk, will read and enjoy it. The book is not a strict biography, it may be categorized as occupying a place between the bona fide biography and the historical novel. As such it is a distinct and at the same time pleasing departure from the other works on St. Catherine. Miss Eaton in no wise sacrifices fidelity to fact in an effort to heighten the vividness and charm of her story. She never severs the link binding her central character to documentary evidence; her real art lies in preserving this connection, while from the documents she builds up a charming and intimate study of Catherine and her influence on men and nations. Dialogue therefore plays an important and conspicuous part in the book and electrifies the story with the vibrant pulsations of life.

Miss Eaton has been exceptionally successful in drawing from the bulkiness of history the secret of Catherine's influence on the great and the lowly, the learned and the unlettered. It was that flaming, all-devouring love of God, aglow in her soul and radiating from her eyes which made her an international figure, because it made her a Saint. Under its compelling motive force she passed to the realization of her end and ideals, unabashed by the glitter of gold, the glint of steel or the silken sheen of the purple robe. Cather-

ine's political mission was not a failure. To affirm that it was, is to fly in the face of history. True, her legatine mission, undertaken in behalf of the Florentines, was of no avail, defeated indeed by the Florentines themselves. But this is an isolated incident and fades into insignificance before the wide-spread influence of her other successful ventures. One can scarcely judge the sea to have disappeared because it happens to be low tide.

Since the book is, from all appearances, destined for readers of the secondary school age, we think a preliminary chapter, in the nature of an historical back drop would not have been amiss. One thing more by way of adverse criticism: Gregory XI's decision to return to Rome is made appear too matter-of-fact. History records a mighty struggle against Cardinals, political allies and even the members of his own family before the decision was reached. The mechanics of the book are model: index, bibliography being of highest grade; the latter will satisfy the demands of the scholar. The amber hue of the printed pages sensibly enhances the significance of the title. In short, it is difficult to comment on the book without recourse to superlatives.

R. G. F.

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**Readings on the Family.** Edited by Edgar Schmiedeler, O.S.B. xii-525 pp. New York: The Century Co. \$2.75.

This highly useful volume is a nearly complete symposium of the principles and practices of family life, and the peculiar problems which beset the modern home. The family is the foundation stone of society and social action; and the increasing interest in and anxiety for the purity and soundness of family life which have developed within the past few years, particularly in the churches and the field of social work, are manifested by a considerable literature on the subject. Owing to the scattered condition of this literature, much of it has been relatively inaccessible to many. As stated in the preface, the purpose of this volume of *Readings on the Family* is to collect in convenient form a representative selection of some of the most valuable essays and articles on the subject.

The editor has chosen his material with discrimination; and we find among the contributors many names which are synonyms for authority and scholarship in the field of sociology. Such, for example, are John A. Ryan, John M. Cooper, Ernest R. Groves, and many others.

More than forty articles, including the Encyclical letters, *Arcanum Divinae* of Pope Leo XIII, and *Casti Connubii* of Pope Pius XI, comprise the collection. They treat every important phase

of family life, and are arranged under chapter headings indicating their relations to the general subject.

This book is invaluable to the student of sociology, and should be part of the library of every priest.

R. H. G.

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**Joel Chandler Harris: Editor and Essayist.** Edited by Julia Collier Harris. xiv-429 pp. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press. \$4.00.

The generality of the adult reading public will invariably link the name of Joel Chandler Harris with those delightful "Uncle Remus" tales of their childhood. Few there are who may consider that late beloved writer as any more than the creator of the cunning "Br'er Fox," the lovable "Br'er Rabbit" and the "gooey" but delicious "Tar Baby." Mr. Harris is remembered by most of us as an author who discovered the unlimited possibilities of the negro as a literary theme, who made of the negro a literary prospect.

This book will do much in indicating how far afield we have wandered in our evaluation of the breadth and depth of the vision and ability of the late Joel Chandler Harris. Under the capable editorship of Julia Collier Harris, who has selected the literary nuggets of pure gold from the voluminous writings of her father-in-law, the book assumes much more imposing proportions than a mere collection of essays and editorials. It is a many-sided study of a many-sided personality. A man's character and capability may be generally more accurately gaged from his writings than from any other source. This collection of hitherto unpublished essays may therefore be tabbed a kind of psychographical analysis. They reveal and unfold a panorama of powers and possibilities in the soul of a strong man.

The work is magnetic. It leaves within the reader's mind the conviction that he has read the autobiography of one of those men who capture and hold the better and more exalted feelings of the thinking many. We see Mr. Harris as he would have us see him, clean, wholesome, moral, humorous with a humor deep and placid, a humor that elicits rather the common sense chuckle of amusement, full-blown and lasting, than the sudden flashing outburst of hilarity. Most readers are familiar with the old plantation darkey which Mr. Harris has painted. A special section of the book develops and enlarges this particular topic. It is pleasant and informative and the many sterling qualities of this group of essays would alone justify the collection. Then there are those gems of armchair philosophy, uttered by Billy Saunders, "The Philosopher of Shady Dale." They are all written in that strong, gravely humorous dialect

of the middle Georgian. The sentiments of Mr. Harris on the feasibility of Prohibition would meet with ready approval today. He was far-sighted, and in his own quaint and homely way painfully correct in his deductions.

In the "Sage of Snap Bean Farm" we find Mr. Harris at his best. Wit, humor, pathos, a bit of science, a gleam of imagination—all appear as one turns the pages of this literary kaleidoscope. His sincerity drove his pen like a spear head into the vitals of dishonesty, hypocrisy and moral corruption. These writings reveal Mr. Harris, not blinded by that bigoted pessimism which would cut deeply with no intent to cure, but blessed with a bountiful supply of what the Apostle calls "Charity"; and so he could be an ideal critic.

Lovers of good literature will no doubt extend a generous welcome to this book. Friends and admirers of the late Editor-Essayist should feel greatly indebted to Julia Collier Harris and to the University of North Carolina. As to the physical structure of the book might it be sufficient praise to say that it is a worthy representative of a press whose motto has ever been "Beauty and Durability." The content of this work defies the acid-tipped pen of the caustic critic.

R. G. F.

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**Latin Lexicon.** Edited by F. P. Leverett. Philadelphia: The Peter Reilly Co. \$5.00.

The publishers have made no mistake in undertaking to reprint the long-favored *Leverett's Lexicon*. Its value to the student has been tested and proved many times over, so that it needs no new word of commendation. For the college student of Latin it is the only work which adequately bridges the gap between the expensive and often unavailable large dictionaries and the cheap, inaccurate and too elementary books. The reprint is well done, on paper of good quality, and bound strongly enough to withstand the hard usage that a dictionary should get.

J. F.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT

With the canonization of St. Albert the Great we take an honest pride in announcing the timely production of "Albert the Great: His Life and Thought," by the Rev. Thomas M. Schwertner, O.P. Written in a delightful and scholarly manner this work carries us back to a period when great learning and ardent sanctity were not unusual in one man and when the master of St. Thomas Aquinas was helping to produce the immortal "Summa Theologica." The volume is being prepared by the Bruce Publishing Co., Milwaukee,

and will appear with the Science and Culture Series under the general editorship of the Rev. Joseph Husslein, S.J. It is promised for distribution soon.

## DIGEST OF RECENT BOOKS

**RELIGION, PHILOSOPHY:** Although **Religious Realism**, edited by D. C. Macintosh, has been styled a collective unit it might more correctly be termed a symposium of sixteen essays, each of which represents the basic tenets of its particular author. No Gibbon ever arose who could mould so many divergent views as expressed in these essays into coherent unity. It is suggested that the volume is comprehensive of sound, well-defined view-points, based on equally sound philosophical principles. The value of this statement, and indeed the worth of the whole collection may be judged according to the avowed purpose of the book. The contributors to the work are all advocates of an approach to a central "Religious Object" through the medium of philosophical realism. This entails a critique of the data of experience in general, and religious experience in particular. The net results of almost every type of dialectical strategy is a veritable deluge of technical verbiage behind which is the notion of a religion without God. This is the inevitable terminus of systems ratiocated on that primary Hegelian assumption of attributing a seraphic intelligence to earth-bound and flesh-enchained mankind. Most of the essays resolve themselves into highly technical yet withal pantheistic rhapsodies. Out of the whole collection the essay by Dr. Wright, of Dartmouth, presents possibly the sole positive conception of a personal deity. Even this loses all its import by being advanced as a permissible though unnecessary hypothesis since Emergent Evolution describes the firm outline of Morality and Conscience without recourse to a personal God. Dr. Horton, as his contribution, presents an essay entitled "Authority Without Infallibility." It is shot through with philosophical tenets based on Hegelian principles and advocates nothing less than religious nihilism. While this book contains an impressive panorama of high-sounding phraseology it is also a concrete example of what happens when scholars attempt to wear the surplice as an academic gown. In mounting their Mars hill these "religious realists" forget to bring along with them the Faith of their fathers. (The Macmillan Co., New York, \$3.00)

To Catholics Father Scott needs no introduction. His writings have been standard household equipment for many years. In the children's library he found a place with his boys' novels; and in books and periodicals of a graver nature he found eager readers among the grown-ups. Now he places before that public, young as well as old, a work that should have a general appeal. What is happiness? and what must one do to obtain it? are questions that find answer in **Happiness**, Father Scott's recent volume. Here the author collects beneath a single cover thirteen essays apologetic in content but not so in style. In a plain and simple manner the questions are proposed and answered with no thought to controversy. And in this simplicity lies the beauty of the writing. These thirteen chapters deal with kindred subjects making a logical treatment of Man, Life, Religion and the importance of religion in the life of man, more especially the happiness that comes to man from the practice of the Catholic religion. Although the interest lags occasionally when the author repeats himself unnecessarily the vivid examples and well expressed common sense are more than saving graces. (P. J. Kenedy and Sons, New York, \$2.00)

**The Will to Succeed**, by Edward F. Garesché, S.J., is an excellent little work intended to furnish young people about to embark on a business or professional career with proper counsel which will enable them to cope with those subtle and discouraging difficulties of their prospected states. The book has to do with the notion of true success and the basis of the same which is character. Character must be firmly grounded on four foundation stones, the natural virtues of Prudence, Justice, Fortitude and Temperance. A special chapter treats each of these in some detail. Several subsidiary postulates in the nature of corollaries follow from the central thought of the book. These also are the subjects of detailed consideration. The book will benefit and aid its readers; especially will it be an invaluable asset to those young people for whom it is primarily intended. Father Garesché wields an iconoclastic sword among the idols, axioms and the ten commandments with which pagan Modernism measures success. The style is that leisurely intimate one, so characteristic of the author, which disposes the reader readily to accept the moral lesson which a careful reading must impart. (P. J. Kenedy and Sons, New York, \$2.00)

**SCRIPTURE:** Père Huby's little volume, **The Church and the Gospels**, translated by Fenton Moran, is intended as an introductory study to the entire field of the four Gospels. The chief substance of the book is in the nature of general analysis of the four Gospels, preceded by the preliminary chapter embodying a brief exposition, excellently handled, of the more important fundamental requisites for a correct reading of the Gospels. The work is written in a direct, forcible style and the author is blessed with that superb gift of clarifying the thought even when it runs deepest. In his considerations of the four Gospels the author devotes a special section to the inspired writer, the testimony of tradition and the characteristic features of each Gospel, respectively. Detailed study of the particular Gospels has been deliberately excluded from this book due mainly to the introductory nature of the volume, and also because the principal thesis advanced by the author finds sufficient fundament in the facts as presented. There is no originality in the explanation of texts nor the solution of old difficulties. Père Huby adheres to the findings and researches of those sound, thoroughgoing Biblical scholars whose approach to the basic objections of the "higher critics" is firmly grounded on factual observation and the result of intense study. We recommend this book to the clergy and laity alike. (Henry Holt and Co., New York, \$2.00)

**BIOGRAPHY, HISTORY:** In the **Eulogy on George Washington** (delivered by Bishop John Carroll at Baltimore, February 22, 1800), edited by the Rev. Dr. Peter Guilday of the Catholic University, we have, in brochure form, stimulating evidence that will aid in softening the age-old accusation that Catholicism and Americanism are incompatible. Dr. Guilday has prefaced the reprint of the *Eulogy* with a comparison of the lives of George Washington and Bishop Carroll, first bishop of the American States. He has illuminated the early period of our American history to a great extent, and has traced the warm friendship that existed between the "Pater Patriae" and his Catholic countrymen, adding such choice selections as the joint letter of the American Prelates to Washington, felicitating him upon his elevation to the supreme honor, and the latter's correspondence in reply, as also the letter of George Washington Parke Custis, an adopted son of the first President. It is to be regretted if this book does not find its way into the hands of many of those not of our Faith. Aside from its apologetical value, this little book serves as a worthy contribution to the bicentennial celebration of the birth of George Washington. (P. J. Kenedy and Sons, New York, \$1.00)

"Lives of great men all remind us We can make our lives sublime" sang

the poet, Longfellow, and one can ever find inspiration and renewed zeal in contemplating the heroic life of a fellow creature whose virtues shone with an unusual light. In **The Story of Antoinette Margot** the Reverend Thomas David Williams, the learned author of the Concordances of Holy Scripture, has portrayed a most interesting and inspiring life. Antoinette Margot, born into a French family that had been staunchly Protestant for centuries, was early attracted toward the Catholic Church but meeting with determined parental opposition, she was not able to embrace the true faith until she had undergone nearly twenty years of discouragement and doubt. Believing that her vocation lay in the new world, she turned her back on her many friends and her promising artistic career and came to America in 1885, settling soon after in Washington. She became one of the pioneer settlers in the Brookland section, in the shadow of the newly founded Catholic University, where she inspired by her devotion and labors the founding of the local parish of Saint Anthony's. From its beginning she was the sacristan and benefactress of this parish, and her labors of love were finished only by her death at the advanced age of 82. By all those who were blessed with her friendship her memory is revered as that of one of God's chosen. In the words of the author: "In the belief that many a soul will be strengthened, consoled, uplifted and guided by the lesson of this gifted life, the story of Antoinette Margot, the artist, the thinker, for some years the companion and friend of Clara Barton of Red Cross fame, the devoted, grateful convert, the humble sacristan of a little suburban church, is offered to those who wish to learn the lessons that God teaches through His chosen ones, and to see the wonderful fruit born, by His love and mercy and wisdom, in a rich and virgin soil." Father Williams has written a very interesting book about this remarkable woman and we trust that it may receive the wide circulation that it deserves. (John Murphy, Baltimore, \$1.50)

Myriam de G. . . , Lauréate of the French Academy, in **Petite Prédestinée**, tells the story of a naive and lovable child in a naive and lovable way. On its seventy-three pages, as on a canvas, are sketched the angelic features of the little French Marie-Gabrielle T. . . who in 1912, during her sixth year, died while preparing to meet "le bon Jésus" in her First Holy Communion. "Le bon Jésus," though depriving her of the joy of Holy Communion, granted her the greater joy of the beatific vision. Her fervent and tender preparation for the Eucharistic meeting was in reality a rehearsal for the union eternal. The little work, with its colorful, lively style, its pretty drawings and photos of the "little predestined one," will charm the French children for whom it was written. If translated into English it will surely do the work of a dozen sermons in disposing our youngsters for Holy Communion. Mothers, priests, nuns and all who yearn to put Christ in the first place in the affections of the young, will read it with pleasure and tell its winsome story to their "hopefuls." That it holds a message for the "sage folk" may be drawn from the prefatory letters of two French prelates and Father Garrigou-Lagrange, O.P. (P. Lethielleux, Paris)

Out of the dim, distant past comes a voice, the voice of a chronicler telling the story of a reform. This volume of the "Capuchin Classics Series," **A Capuchin Chronicle**, relates with the intimacy of a diary and the interest of a novel the events leading up to and including the early days of the founding of the Capuchin Order. History with its accompanying array of dates and tiresome details is here brightened by the style of the author. The little volume comes as a translation from the original manuscript. It is edited by Fr. Cuthbert, O.S.F.C. The binding too helps to make this an attractive work. (Benziger Bros., New York, \$1.90)

**HAGIOGRAPHY:** In *Al Beato Alberto Magno* we find a special, illustrated edition of *Memorie Domenicane*, a tribute to Albert the Great. It is a select group of short scholarly essays regarding the personal character, the works edited and unedited of Albert, and his relations with the age in which he lived. From a perusal of these essays one may realize at a glance the great proportion to which the cult of Albert the Great has attained, and that Pope Pius XI was but acceding to the prayers of thousands when, on December 16, 1931, he canonized him and declared him "Doctor Ecclesiae." (Convento di S. Maria Novella, Florence (6), L, 22)

Readers of *The Sign* will be pleased to find in permanent form the articles written for this magazine some time ago by the Reverend F. J. Mueller on the Twelve Apostles. **Christ's Twelve** is a short and interesting study for the general reader. It gives the human aspect of the lives of the Apostles, both before and after they were called by Christ to follow Him. It depicts them as the living human beings that they really were. There is Peter, the man of impulse and frank simplicity, characteristics so useful in the leader of a difficult work. There is James, the silent "Son of Thunder," John, the other "Son of Thunder" who was transformed into "the beloved disciple" and Evangelist. There is Andrew, a man who brought many of his "brothers" to Christ including even Simon Peter, his brother in the flesh. We read of the guilelessness of Nathaniel, the skepticism of the doubting Thomas, the humility of Matthew the Evangelist, who wrote so much good of others and scarcely anything good of himself. We see how the three brothers, Jude, Simon and James the Less were cousins of our Lord; how Judas lost many opportunities in his desire for money. And finally the twelfth and last chapter gives us the thirteenth Apostle, Paul, the genius of them all. He was indeed, "a man's man," spiritual and practical, courageous and humble, a master of himself and a master of others. The busy man of to-day will appreciate this short but manly study of thirteen men who were men. (Bruce, Milwaukee, \$1.25)

In an attempt to satiate a long-felt need the St. Dominic's Press has recently published **The Lay-Brother**, a short account of the life and status of a Dominican Lay-Brother. This little book is an English version of the work originally done in French by Fr. Henri-Dominique Noble, O.P. It is just the book to be given to the Catholic man, young or old, who has not a vocation to the Priesthood but who feels called to lead a life of Perfection. There is, also, much encouragement in this work for the Lay-Brother who has already discovered his vocation. Fr. Noble, in simple and clear language, has written a book that can be read in an hour by anyone with an ordinary education. The author devotes the first three chapters to show that the Lay-Brother is a real religious, a real Dominican, and a real Apostle. The remaining three chapters describe the work of a Lay-Brother in a Dominican Priory, tell of the great sanctity attained by many Lay-Brothers, and point out the way to obtain admission to the Lay-Brotherhood. This concise and informing book should be of great aid to American priests in the spiritual direction of Catholic men. (St. Dominic's Press, Ditchling Common, Hassocks, Sussex. 2/-)

**DEVOTIONAL, MEDITATIONS:** In his latest work, **Temples of Eternity**, Fr. R. H. J. Steuart, S.J., shows us how close God is to each one. We need but to stretch out our hands and find that His Hand is waiting to grasp ours and lead us to eternal happiness. This book is truly worthy of its title, "Temples of Eternity," for it points out that any man who does not place obstacles in the way of grace, is in reality a dwelling place, a magnificent temple, in which the Holy Spirit abides now and will continue to do so forever. The author makes no attempt to set down rules and regulations by which one can attain to union with God. He presents simply and in a very practical manner his arguments drawn from Sacred

Scripture and other sources. The real beauty of this little book lies in the fact that it points out a positive way of pleasing God and thus a sure way of reaching Him. One needs but co-operate with the breathing of the Holy Spirit and an ascendancy over nature will be assured. Father Steuart has given us a book which is delightfully subtle, yet minus an overbearing formalism. (Longmans, Green and Co., New York, \$2.00)

The John Murphy Company, Baltimore, has just published a new large type edition of the **Manual of Prayers**, that official prayer book prepared and enjoined by order of the Third Plenary Council of Baltimore and endorsed by the Hierarchy of the Catholic Church. In it the ceremonies and prayers of the Mass as well as many other parts of the liturgy are explained. The Sacraments, sacramentals, indulgences and means of obtaining them, visitation of the sick and burial of the dead—these are but a few of the subjects interpreted in a truly apologetic and devotional style.

Combining practicality with artistry, Sister Mary Ambrose, O.P., has produced an excellent booklet, **My First Gift**, to be used at Mass by Catholic children in the primary grades. Appropriate prayers, in the language of the child and presented in exceptionally large print, accompanied by beautiful four-colored illustrations of the principal parts of the Mass, make up the contents of a work which should be widely distributed to satisfy a need long felt in our Catholic elementary schools. (D. B. Hansen & Sons, Chicago, 1932. 25¢ retail—special prices for large quantities.)

Vera Marie Tracey's exquisitely written story may well be construed as a reply to the age-old query "Why so much suffering in the world?" To those who suffer more intensely than their neighbor **Burnished Chalice** comes as a sweet benediction. On the other hand, those who have not been privileged to suffer uncommonly turn from this heart-gripping tale of events with the poignant realization that they are following the Master only from afar off. "When it was Morning" recounts the glorious emotions that surged through the heart of a child on her First Communion morning. "All the Aprils" vividly pictures that same girl in her sixteenth year as she sat in the sunny bower of her garden at home dreaming of worldly renown as a writer of short stories. "The Song of Happiness" records another April sometime later when the selfsame girl had been shorn of all desire of fame by dint of a bodily affliction. In the final analysis every chapter of this beautifully written sketch deserves special commendation. (Bruce, Milwaukee, \$1.50)

**The Spiritual Exercises and Devotions** of Blessed Robert Southwell, S.J., one of the recently beatified English Martyrs of the sixteenth century, is a collection of meditations discovered by the Bollandists. These seventy-three short treatises on the spiritual life are the work of a man deeply imbued with the martyr's spirit. Implicit obedience to Rule and superiors, gratitude to God for special graces, reverential fear of His Omnipotence, patience in time of sickness—are some of the characteristics of this martyr's soul portrayed in his writings. The work is translated from the Latin by Msgr. P. E. Hallett, with an introduction by the editor, Fr. J. M. de Buck, S.J. (Benziger Bros., New York, \$1.90)

The beauty and profound spirituality of **Virgo Fidelis**, a spiritual commentary in French, renders it a worthy interpreter of that exalted Mystical Song of the Church, the Canticle of Canticles. The author, a distinguished Dominican, who has been visited for a long time with intense suffering, prefers to remain unknown, hence the pseudonym of Robert de Langeac. The work is the fruit of daily meditation. Its merit lies in this that it transports the chosen soul spontaneously, immediately from sensible reality, from the human signification of the words into the unutterable sweetness of spiritual love. Rarely does one find such a simple, such a beautiful, such an exalted explanation of those sacred texts which recur so often in our

Liturgy, especially in the Divine Office and in the Masses of the Blessed Virgin. It stresses above all fidelity to prayer as a potent means of receiving from God the precious gift of true fidelity to Divine Love. This book will be of real value not only to contemplatives but to priests and religious in general. Especially will they find pertinent advice in the counsels on humility, obedience and prayer, since they are the expression of one who has attained great spiritual heights, purified by suffering generously borne for the love of God. (P. Lethielleux, Paris, 18 fr.)

**FICTION: Michaleen**, by Patrick J. Carroll, C.S.C., is an interesting story of simple Irish life. To those who are acquainted with the Irish soil this story is of special interest. The story of Michaleen concerns a young Irish lad who spends his vacation on a farm. There are characters such as Shaneen Og, Mickeen the Hump, Con Cahill, Kate and her nephew, James Patrick, who seem to be actually living in the book. The story is simple and well-written. Many humorous incidents brighten these pages and they are set down without exaggeration. The cutting of wheat, loading of hay, trips to the nearby towns of Adare, Newcastle and Ardagh, an explanation of the matches, an excellent description of Fenian's death, wake and funeral: these and many other interesting details, characteristic of the Irish, are the subject matter of the chapters of this work. It is a novel that will be enjoyed by all. (Ave Maria, Notre Dame, Ind., \$1.50)

Mary Synon's first long novel, **Copper Country**, is a success. The "Copper Country" is that long strip of land bordering the Great Lakes. The story itself, working against this background, presents the Kendry's, one of those pioneer families who made their lives comfortable only after much toil and discomfort. The younger generation occupies the foreground, especially Rose, the youngest of the four Kendry children. Under the artistic stroke of the writer's pen Rose's charming character and virtues become even more beautiful in contrast with the apathy of her lovely sister. The rather cleverly executed plot gains interest as it progresses and is held in suspense by the ebb and flow of events in Rose's romantic love affair. Yet one reaches the climax with regret because it means that one will soon end the story and bid farewell to the lovable characters who seem to live in this book. Miss Synon here presents a truly Catholic novel merely by arranging circumstances which speak for themselves. Young people, especially young women, contemplating marriage will be instructed as well as entertained by this excellent work. (P. J. Kenedy and Sons, New York, \$2.00)

**POETRY, DRAMA:** Nothing is so refreshing, so attractive to the roving, reading eye, nor so trenchant, if need there be to draw a metric sword, as the pithy quatrain. Charged with thought, clothed in pretty imagery, formed with grace of phrase, it has a power all its own. **Candles in the Wind**, by the Rev. Charles J. Quirk, S.J., is a collection of more than three score of these little verses in which exceptional talent in a poetic specialty is undeniably displayed. "Day-break in the City," "The Grass-hopper," "Lines for a Sun-dial," "Jeanne d'Arc to the Flames" and "In Autumn," with a few others, may well claim a niche for their creator. But, sad to say, the bulk of these offerings are banal in thought, indisputably mediocre in presentation, carelessly rhymed—who will hear in this our day *head and vanish-ED* in a quatrain?—and garnished with images which are all-fitted to their four-line surroundings. Brother Leo's prefatory remark about "the impressive poetical presentation of relativity" in "An Ant-Hill" can be scarcely more than an individual opinion. It is to be regretted that Father Quirk has confined himself to the quatrain, for many of his subjects are lovely enough, but his metric brevity has crushed them. Still here is no mere colporteur of mellifluously holy jingles. Father Quirk can sing, as Brother Leo says, and he does. In token whereof "Snow" (p. 47) and

"Mountains" (p. 26) are stoutly recommended. (Lincoln MacVeagh, *The Dial Press*, New York, \$2.00)

Mother Francis d'Assisi, of the Ursulines of New Rochelle, gathers together some of her previously published poems and adds many more in her recent volume, **My Candle and Other Poems**. As Father Talbot explains in the Foreword, they are all spiritual poems. The poetess takes as her theme the spiritual flight of the wayfarer's soul to God, and by interpreting striking passages of Holy Writ sends a beam of light now and then into a dark corner of the soul. Events in the life of our Saviour are sung to the accompaniment of the noble emotions of love, pity and gratitude. Worthy of special mention is the series of verses on the Way of the Cross. In this some significant thought or event of each Station is singled out and made even more impressive by rhyme and rhythm and the elevating language of poetry. (Benziger Bros., New York, \$1.00)

**The Seventieth Week** is a posthumous publication of a play and poems of Sister Miriam Teresa, a Sister of Charity, by her brother, the Rev. Charles Demjanovich. "The Seventieth Week" which gives the name to the book, is a Christmas fantasy. It is brilliantly conceived and uncommonly well delineated in character. There is a noticeable lack of skill in motivating the basic element, but this is pardonable in a first play, as this is judged to be. The rest of the book is made up of poems, carefully divided by the editor into four groups, namely, religious, personal, scholastic and occasional. In each group there is an attempt at chronological order, in so far as it was possible. There is a very noticeable progress in each group. There are many poems, especially among the occasional poems, which are gems of poetic vision. They are simple, tender and genuinely beautiful. Those of the other groups, except one or two religious poems, never rise above the mediocre. The general criticism is that Sister's poems patently grew better with the years. One can not help regretting that an untimely death cut short the flowering of a very probable genius. (Rev. Charles C. Demjanovich, Darlington, N. J., \$1.65)

Paul Green, in **The House of Connelly and Other Plays**, gives us three of his latest works. The first, the title play of the volume, is a two-act sketch of the Southland, featuring a weak male offspring of a proud, aristocratic family, who finally, growing tired of the shamelessness of his ancestry and the sham of his present generation, dons working clothes, actually works on his plantation, breaks his kind mother's heart and marries a girl of the "poor white" class. There is a vein of iconoclasm in this work which would destroy all faith in the real Southland of yesteryear. The dramatic action, however, is commendable and some of the characters are beautifully drawn. The second play of this volume, "Potter's Field," presents a good picture of the negro's innate spirituality, emphasized somewhat by the squalor of an environment tense under oppression. In both these plays distasteful and depressing realism is capitalized; vulgarity and blasphemy in speech add little to the dramatic interest. The third, "Tread the Green Grass," needs an interpreter with the text. While admittedly a fantasy, it exceeds the bounds of a well-ordered imagination and the outcome is a farce-tragedy. (Samuel French, New York, \$2.50)

**One Act Plays for Everyone** is a very interesting play-book containing eleven short plays by Dan Tothoroh. "The Breaking of the Calm" and "Pearls" have quite catchy plots that will interest any reader of plays. "Mirthful Marionettes" shows what would have happened to Cinderella if. . . . Just read it for yourself and see if this little play will not please you. (Samuel French, \$2.00)

**Seven to Seventeen** contains twenty-one plays for boys and girls. "What's a Fixer For" shows one of the trials and tribulations of a circus. An interesting episode of William Shakespeare, a tale of the "Seventies,"

the daily toil of a small town druggist, a spoiled family: these are plays that you will enjoy reading. All of these have been collected and edited by Alexander Dean. (Samuel French, \$3.00)

The editor of "Carolina Folk-Plays," Frederick H. Koch, presents the fourth volume of this series. The book is made up entirely of comedies. **Carolina Folk Comedies** is a delightful group of one-act plays which are especially adaptable to the requirements of amateurs. While these plays reflect the life of a particular locality they can, nevertheless, serve as models and inspirations for other plays of the same high standard. It is in works such as these that we can expect to find the seeds of American drama. (Samuel French, \$2.50)

**MISCELLANEOUS:** **Ireland Afoot**, by John J. Welsh, is one of those delightful travelogues. The time spent in reading this remarkable account of a journey on foot through Ireland will never be regretted. The author sets out to observe the beauty of Ireland's scenery, the characteristics of her people, her national shrines and monuments. He goes on foot from town to town and relates about each place its chief points of interest in such an interesting and human way that the reader feels he is there with him. The historical data found in this work is of value; it gives us the history and legend connected with the monuments and eminent orators and valiant martyrs of Ireland. In these pages, as well, you meet the peasant and the President. A rainfall, unprecedented in twenty-five Summers, accompanied the author on his journey and he states that he was wet many times. Despite the rain the author discovered the "sunniness of Erin's unconquerable soul." At the completion of his journey afoot he pays a beautiful compliment to Ireland and her people: "Here, indeed, flourished my conception of the only true philosophy—faith, sincerity and generosity—proudly living in humble surroundings." In these pages the reader is presented with an opportunity of seeing and knowing Ireland, old and ever new—Ireland, that verdant land of the smile and the tear. (Richard G. Badger, Boston, \$2.50)

The **1932 Almanac** edition of the Franciscan Catholic Monthly Review is a veritable encyclopedia of useful information about the Church, the history of the Church, of the world and our own country, and records of present day achievements. Even the subject of the "seven wonders," to some a topic of least importance, finds a place in this catalogue of people, places, things and events. (The Franciscan Magazine, Paterson, N. J., \$0.60, post-paid)

The **Catholic Press Directory for 1932** makes it possible to see at a glance the extensive field of Catholic publications in the United States. This little book lists under several indexes all the Catholic papers and periodicals of this country and gives an itemized analysis of each: publication office, date of publication, size, circulation and facilities for advertisers. It is endorsed by the Catholic Press Association. (J. H. Meier, 64 Randolph St., Chicago, \$1.00)

The pedagogy of business science is constantly being improved and made to answer the problems of the day. The Gregg Publishing Co., New York, comes forward with seven new works for the student and teacher. **Condensed Rules for English Composition**, by M. E. Gray, is a pamphlet containing the more important norms of good English copiously illustrated (\$0.25). Prepared for use in High Schools are the two volumes: **General Business Science, III**, and **Projects in Business Science, III** (each, \$1.00), by Lloyd L. Jones and James L. Holtsclaw; herein a course is outlined from general bookkeeping to keeping a private budget. The Anniversary Edition of **Gregg Shorthand, Junior Manual**, by John Robert Gregg, presents a simple study of the subject for Junior High Schools where it is not studied for vocational purposes (\$1.50). **Transcription Drills**, by J. Walter

Ross, is prepared especially to aid the teacher of transcription (\$1.20). In **Gregg Typing**, by Rupert P. SoRelle and Harold H. Smith, it becomes possible to place to-day's business customs beside every typewriter in the classroom (\$1.50). A fascinating and comprehensive story of advertising appears in the volume, **Understanding Advertising**, by Raymond Hawley and James Barton Zabin, making it a short, non-technical course of twenty lessons (\$1.20).

We rejoice at seeing the child's schoolbooks made more fascinating. A good example of such a book is the **Alpha Individual Arithmetics, Book Six, Part II**, by the Supervisory Staff of the Summit Experimental School of Cincinnati. It is a complete and unified book of text, tests and worksheets, attractively illustrated by Cornelia Hoff. It should prove equally helpful to teacher and pupil. (Ginn and Co., Boston, \$0.56)

**PAMPHLETS:** The *Catholic Historical Review* calls attention to the value of an article which appeared in the January, 1932, issue by publishing it in pamphlet form. This pamphlet, **Incunabula of Albertus Magnus in the Library of Congress**, by the Reverend Charles M. Daley, O.P., gives a brief sketch of St. Albert's life, an account of what "incunabula" are and where they are found in this country. Going into detail the author mentions each of these fifteenth century volumes and gives a description of the physical structure as well as a digest of each. We welcome this especially for its timeliness and scholarship. It shows too what a priceless institution is our Library of Congress.

A man enjoying such prestige in the field of morals as the Rev. Arthur Vermeersch, S.J., professor of Moral Theology at the Gregorian University in Rome, is justly qualified to demand our attention on the subject of marriage. In his preface to the pamphlet, **What is Marriage?**, Fr. Vermeersch indicates that his object coincides with that of the Holy Father who, issuing his encyclical *Casti Connubii*, desired that its doctrine receive the greatest possible diffusion. To this end the author most wisely chooses the catechetical method to analyse and simplify the study of the doctrine of the encyclical. The subject is treated with clarity but regrettable brevity. Difficulties and objections, both past and current, are taken into consideration and answered quite pointedly but none the less completely. The translation by the Rev. T. Lincoln Bouscaren, S.J., gives to English readers an exact and faithful reproduction of the original. We call attention to a misprint in the footnote on page 10; referring to the Suppl. 3P. Q 67, Art. 15, it should read: Suppl. 3P. Q 65, Art. 1. (American Press, New York, \$0.25)

The **Medical Mission Manual** presents clear instructions and diagrams for making surgical dressings and hospital garments. Another suggestion to those wanting to help where help is greatly needed! (The Catholic Medical Mission Board, 10 W. 17th St., N. Y. C., \$0.25)

**Indulgences: What They Are and How They Can Be Gained**, by the Rev. Placid Schmid, O.S.B., is a handy booklet. Besides a simple explanation of the doctrine on indulgences in general, it contains a list of indulgenced prayers and articles of devotion. Its most striking feature is an index of the plenary indulgences which may be gained on special feasts. It will be found a most useful and instructive book for the Catholic layman. (Lawrence N. Daleiden, Chicago, \$0.25)

A timely little work is **Divine Worship**, by the Rev. Dr. Johannes Pinski. In thirty pages of delightful reading we find a short sketch of the liturgical movement, the what, why and wherefore of the liturgy and several other kindred questions briefly but skilfully treated. (The Liturgical Press, Collegeville, Minn., \$0.10)

**PAMPHLETS RECEIVED:** Two pamphlets by the Rev. Paul Bussard: **Small Catechism of the Mass**, a series of short lessons in question and answer form treating the same doctrine as contained in **If I Be Lifted Up**;

**Why the Mass?**, a new combined edition of "Why Do Catholics Attend Mass?" by Louis Trauffer, O.S.B., and Virgil Michel, O.S.B. (Liturgical Press. Each \$0.10)

**BOOKS RECEIVED:** From the Bruce Publishing Company: two volumes of the Science and Culture Series: **The Christian Social Manifesto**, by Joseph Husslein, S.J. (\$2.50), and **A Cheerful Ascetic and Other Essays**, by James J. Daly, S.J. (\$1.75). From Benziger Bros: **Consummata**, by Raoul Plus, S.J., translated by George Baker (\$2.75); **St. Augustine**, by Henrich Hubert Lesaar (\$2.70); **The Third Spiritual Alphabet**, by Fray Francisco De Osuna (\$3.95); **Ecclesiastical Greek for Beginners** (\$1.75) and **Key to Ecclesiastical Greek for Beginners** (\$1.10), by J. E. Lowe., From the Macmillan Co.: **The Bow in the Clouds** (Essays in Order 4), by E. I. Watkin (\$1.75); **Vital Realities** (Essays in Order 5, 6, 7), by Carl Schmitt, Nicholas Berdyaev and Michael de la Bedoyere (\$2.00); **Jadwiga: Poland's Great Queen**, by Charlotte Kellog (\$2.50); **Evolution and Theology**, by the Rev. Ernest C. Messenger (\$2.50); **The Blessed Friend of Youth, Blessed John Bosco**, by Neil Boyton, S.J. (\$1.00); **Damien of Molokai**, by Irene Caudwell (\$2.00). **The Shadow of the Pope**, by Michael Williams (Whittlesey House, \$3.00); **Victor Herbert**, by Joseph Kaye (G. Howard Watt, \$3.00); **Has Science Discovered God?** edited by Edward H. Cotton (Crowell, \$3.50); **Under His Shadow**, by Francis Shea, C.P. (The Sign Press, \$1.60). **Wilhelm Achtermann**, a biography of the noted German sculptor and philanthropist, by the Rev. Innocent M. Strunk, O.P. (Albertus Magnus Press, Vechta, M. 8, 70). From Samuel French, 25 West 45th St., N. Y. C.: **Two Plays: Art and Mrs. Bottle, and Mrs. Moonlight**, three-act comedies by Ben W. Levy (\$2.50); **Washington Marches On**, a play of the life of George Washington, by Olive M. Price (\$1.00); **My China Doll**, a musical comedy in three acts, by Charles George; **The New Freedom**, one of the Morningside plays of Columbia University, a comedy in three acts, by Marjorie Paradis; **No More Frontier**, a Yale Play, in prologue and three acts, by Talbot Jennings; **Monologues of Every Day**, by Elsie Quaife and Ernest Nehring; twelve volumes of the French Standard Library Edition: **Nine Till Six**, a play in three acts, by Aimée and Philip Stuart; **They Knew What They Wanted**, a comedy in three acts, by Sidney Howard; **Gasoline Gypsies**, a comedy in three acts, by Charles Conger Stewart; **Overture**, a drama in three acts, by William Bolitho; **Cradle Snatchers**, a farce-comedy in three acts, by Russell G. Medcraft and Norma Mitchell; **Ladies of the Jury**, a comedy in three acts, by Fred Ballard; **Berkeley Square**, a fantasy in three acts, by John L. Balderston; **London Calling**, a three-act comedy, by Geoffrey Kerr; **Following Father**, a three-act comedy of the Middle West, by Pearl Franklin; **Merry Madness**, a three-act farce-comedy of New York, by Sheridan Gibney; **The Willow Tree**, a Japanese fantasy in three acts, by Benrimo and Harrison Rhodes; **Rebound**, a three-act comedy, by Donald Ogden Stewart (Each \$0.75); three volumes of the Junior League Plays: **The Rescue of St. Nick**, a three-act play, by Brownie Brace; **Magic in the House**, a play in two scenes, by Dorothy Fiske Pierson; **Our Forefathers**, a play in three acts, by Winthrop B. Palmer; and **Revue Sketches**, a collection of nine sketches, by Marjorie Rice Levis (Each \$0.50); **The Evidence**, a one-act play, by Leila Taylor Edwards and Bernice Kelly Harris; **Circumstances Alter Cases**, a one-act comedy, by Ruth Giorloff; **The Trouble With the Christmas Presents**, a comedy in prologue and one act, by Mary P. Hamlin (Each \$0.35); three volumes of French's International Copyrighted Edition: **Saucy Goose**, a comedy in one act, by Russell Medcraft; **The Divine Afflatus**, a one-act comedy, by Harriet Ford; **Teacher was Right**, a three-act comedy, by Marie Doran; and **This Way to Fairyland**, a play in one act, by Anna Bird Stewart (Each \$0.30).