



Hymns of the Dominican Missal and Breviary. By Rev. Aquinas Byrnes, O.P., with introduction and indices. B. Herder Book Company, St. Louis. \$4.75.

Dominicans for many years have longed to see one of their own do for the hymns of the Dominican breviary and missal what Father Matthew Britt, O.S.B., did for the Roman rite in his masterly *Hymns of the Breviary and Missal*. Father Byrnes' work is the very satisfying fulfillment of that desire and it answers a definite need. As he points out in his preface, comparing the Roman and Dominican rites: ". . . study will show in substance that only fifty-three hymns are exactly alike in text, while fifty-three are slightly, notably, or almost entirely different in text. Moreover, the Dominican rite employs eighty-three hymns which have no place in the Roman rite."

This volume is the product of over fifteen years of diligent research, a research clearly evident in the compact precision with which the editor handles his material. His norm in the selection of translations limited him for the most part to those "which best seemed to embody the recognized constituents of an ideal metrical: (a) a literal rendering of the text, (b) idiomatic English, (c) retention of the meter of the original." The application of this strict standard was not possible in all cases, but the degree of success actually attained is surprisingly high.

The arrangement and treatment of subject matter are eminently practical. A brief history of Latin hymnody and a concise exposition of the nine varieties of meter used in the missal and breviary prepare the reader for a fuller appreciation of the translations to come and incidentally acquaint him with the difficulties facing the translator who conforms with the standard already mentioned. The typographical presentation of the hymns is similar to that used so effectively in the *Psalter* of Father Fillion, S.S. The Latin poem and its English equivalent are arranged on alternate pages, the Latin facing the English, with explanatory notes conveniently completing each page. These notes are worthy of further mention. In them are given the prose translation of the hymn, the name of the composer, if this is known,

the meter of the poem, the name of the metrical translator, the liturgical use and Scriptural references which bear at least obliquely on the text. Father Byrnes wisely eschews entering into historical arguments in those cases where the authorship of a hymn is disputed. Such discussions would detract from the essential purpose of his work, which is to pay honor to God and not to the men who used the medium of poetry to express that homage. Commendably, the editor rejects an approach unnecessarily historical and turns to the Scriptures for a more fruitful understanding of these hymns. Readers will find much material for meditation as a result of this approach.

Toward the end of the volume, Father Byrnes gives his audience a poetic treat by favoring them with an example of a rhymed Office. The Office he chose was composed in honor of Saint Thomas Aquinas. The metrical translation done by the editor himself reveals him to be as gifted in composition as he is in weighing the merits of another's efforts. Neatly penned thumbnail sketches of poets and their translators along with handy indices to the hymns are also supplied. A table of contents would facilitate the use of the book, however, and should be added in future editions. With regard to the sketches, a possible source of wonderment to the reader may be the presence of several Anglicans, such as the highly capable John M. Neale, among the metrical contributors. The reason is simple enough: the Anglicans, as the editor mentions, "have ordinarily used the original text, the text which is still found in the Benedictine, Carthusian, Cistercian, and Dominican rites." Hence this work should find a large audience beyond the limits of the Dominican family. For those who like their poetry Catholic, this book is a rare treat. It is an admirable work admirably done.

A.S.

Essays in Thomism. Edited by Rev. Robert E. Brennan, O.P. pp. 427. Sheed and Ward, New York. \$5.00.

Almost two years ago, Father Robert Brennan, O.P., conceived the plan of a book that would give the reader a commanding general's view of the varied battlefronts of Thomistic thought. The half-century of renewed life which followed the publication of Leo XIII's *Aeterni Patris* had yielded results; the extent and the depth of those results needed to be seen in perspective. *Essays in Thomism* is the interesting fruit of that plan and that life. Almost every outstanding writer in English of the Thomist revival makes a representative contribution, the sixteen authors including Jacques Maritain, Walter Farrell, O.P., Rudolf Allers, Mortimer Adler, Yves Simon, and

Robert Slavin, O.P. While disclaiming any attempt to embrace the problems of Thomism extensively, the essays range from Metaphysics, Criteriology and Psychology to Law, Politics and Education.

In the initial essay Father Brennan sets forth two aims of the contemporary Thomist: a careful exposition of the thought of St. Thomas and a complete modernization of that thought. The succeeding articles fulfill these aims in varying degrees as befits a difference in subject matter. Those dealing with speculative philosophy emphasize the expository element while those on politics and education tend to grapple with current practical difficulties. In no case is the exposition a mere profession of orthodoxy, a repetition of already well known theses. Nor is the presentation historical, a procedure which could easily have degenerated into a cataloguing of contrary opinions and of problems met and conquered. Each essay is a doctrinal contribution to the chosen field, an application of Thomistic speculation to its special difficulties. As such, the essays are a convincing demonstration of the vitality of the *philosophia perennis*.

In that vitality may be placed the trust that the defects of modern Thomism, also made known by this volume, will be overcome. "The constructive critical quality" mentioned as characteristic of St. Thomas has thus far for the most part been employed by his followers only in the understanding of the master himself. The tremendous task of assembling and evaluating the truths outside the Thomistic tradition is barely begun. Certainly there is little evidence of it in these essays; the references to modern thinkers are mainly in the nature of destructive analyses.

It may well be that the impetus to undertake that task and the source of true vitality lies in Thomism, not as a philosophy, a system of thought, but as a theology, a way to God. Such is the message of the epilogue, the verses on Wisdom by Dr. Herbert Schwartz. Thomas was a theologian and a saint and his spirit is lacking insofar as those elements are ignored.

E.F.S.

Handbook of Medical Ethics for Nurses, Physicians, and Priests. Translated from the French of M. E. Poupore, by S. A. LaRochelle, O.M.I., and C. T. Fink, M.D., C.M. pp. 363. Newman Book Shop, Westminster, Md. \$1.75

Numerous and vexing are the moral problems that demand solution in the daily life of the conscientious nurse and physician. The importance of the proper solution is evident from the nature of the problems which deal with the right to life, the integrity of the human

body, and the care of the sick. Priests, as teachers of the little ones of Christ, are rightfully expected to furnish the answers to these questions. Fathers S. A. La Rochelle and C. T. Fink have answered well a crying need.

It is the most complete and helpful work on the subject yet to appear on the market. The role of conscience and of the indirect voluntary act is given detailed treatment and is wisely insisted upon in the first two chapters. Nearly all the moral problems faced by the nurse in the practice of her profession are touched upon in a clear and concise manner. There follow, then, those all-important questions concerning Baptism (as ample as found in some manuals of Moral Theology); the Holy Eucharist, as to when and under what conditions it is to be administered to the sick and to those in danger of death; and Extreme Unction. Under the heading of "Other Obligations of Justice or of Charity" are treated such problems as Co-operation, Professional Secrets, and Professional Honesty. The Prayers of the Ritual, added in the Appendix, will prove handy for Priests.

Although the arrangement of the book could be improved by putting the "Table of Contents" in the beginning, and adding an index, nevertheless the book can well be described as "an excellent summary of ethics for the Medical Profession." For nurses, it is indispensable; for physicians only a little less so; and for priests, even though they have completed a course in Moral Theology, it can prove of informative value. The author and the translators should be complimented and thanked.

C.I.L.

We Can Win This War. By W. F. Kernan, Col. U.S. Army. pp. 176. Little, Brown and Company, Boston. \$1.50.

Those who have read *Defense Will Not Win the War* will expect its companion volume to be equally thought-provoking. Writing in an erudite and peppery style, Col. Kernan with trenchant analysis and expression exposes his view of the double problem involved in the winning of a United Nations victory, a double problem, because it means a revolution in military attitudes and moral living.

Nine of the ten short chapters are devoted to anathematizing the fundamental heresy of military science and demonstrating the orthodox plan for victory. The author complains of overadministration in the Army, the too much and too careful planning to eliminate all the elements of uncertainty in warfare. This is the result of a long-standing unholy worship of Prussian military methods, which means

tactics to the exclusion of strategy. A tactical campaign aims at limited objectives almost certainly to be won through a maximum of planning to encounter a minimum of risks. Strategy will run risks, even at times reverses, to attain ultimates, by upsetting the equilibrium of the enemy and leaving him powerless to act effectively in any of the alternatives presented to him. The term "global strategy" is ridiculed as no kin of true strategy and as so much dust thrown in the eyes of the world.

Viewed by the layman in military science, Col. Kernan draws his distinctions clearly and concretely. His conclusions are compelling and must be left to men of his own profession to dispute. He indicates that the Japanese appreciate the importance of strategy, yet he does not introduce the question of strategy versus strategy which must therefore condition the Pacific war. He is totally concerned with the success of waging a war of strategy against the tactics-blinded Germans.

The problem of moral renaissance is developed in the final chapter. This may seem to the reader strange and out of place in a book on war by a professional soldier. But if victory is to be won by the right kind of fighting, it must be maintained by the right kind of thinking and living. The author admits that "though starting as a book on strategy, it has now become a book on theology." Lest he be accused of not sticking to his last, it must be remembered that Col. Kernan was at one time an instructor in medieval philosophy at Harvard and is a Catholic convert. He points out that this war is striking at the moral foundations and spiritual values of our Christian culture, upon which Democracy is built. Attack one and you attack the other. Democracy is a much abused word. It is not always easy to perceive in what precise sense it is being used in every case. The author seems to understand Democracy in the sense of the Christian State of which the theologians speak. In this sense his explanation of its nature is quite reasonable. But as an historical form of political government Democracy is not so identified. Moreover the aim of Democracy, as of every political form, is the temporal felicity of the community. It can make no demands on man's interior moral dispositions toward his ultimate end, as the author seems to imply, except insofar as they are at variance with the true goal of the state. The zealous patriot must beware of including Democracy among the articles of the Apostles' Creed.

This book is to be praised for its insistence on the rebirth of Christian moral virtues in our lives if a better and more secure world is to arise out of this war. Democracy is the only extant stable poli-

tical defense of our cultural heritage we have against the attacks of the enemy. The author recognizes it keenly and urges Americans to rise to the defense of our Democratic institutions. N.H.

The Twilight of Capitalism and the War. By Walter John Marx. pp. 295, with bibliography and index. B. Herder Book Co., St. Louis. \$2.75.

What of Reconstruction after the War? Is the world, and especially our country, moving towards a state of Socialism or dictatorship? What is the future of Capitalism? The economic aspects of these and similar vital problems are here considered in a fascinating volume that is at once authoritative, practical, and eminently readable.

Adopting the easy historical approach, Dr. Marx first traces the growth of commerce and the industrial Revolution and some of its effects. Succeeding chapters treat of money, credit, usury and debt. There is an interesting exposé of the fallacy of free trade. These topics are so capably handled that we would like to dilate on them, did space permit. Suffice it to say that from these chapters the thoughtful reader who may lack formal training in economics can readily garner a grasp of its fundamental concepts and principles.

But it is the last few chapters that are more important at this time. They deal with the role of Capitalism in the War, the probable state of the nation at the end of the War, and a commendable practical program to deal with this state. In this last chapter the author shows foresightedness, courage, and a willingness to apply his principles to concrete cases which is often lacking in other books of this sort.

A summary of some of his conclusions will indicate the tenor of this work. He paints a gloomy picture, but one which we may as well face. Judging by our past actions, he predicts that we shall move away from traditional Capitalism after the War. The key to understanding Capitalism is that it is predicated on the principle of production for profit and an hypothesis of ever-increasing markets. The national debt is increasing by billions; it can be paid off only by some system of inflation, controlled if possible. Due to the costs of the War, increased taxes, the unemployment of returned and injured soldiers, women workers holding on to their jobs, the consequent decline of the birth-rate, and like factors, buying power will be at an ebb. Decreased buying power means smaller markets and less profit. Hence peacetime industries, now untooled, will not be resumed by capitalists, despite the need for peacetime goods. For profit and not

need is the motive of Capitalism. Huge public work programs and repayment of bonds and forced savings will not increase buying power, because they demand greater taxes. Less goods, higher prices, and worse depression loom in an ever-increasing spiral. To prevent chaos, the government will have to continue wartime controls, re-tool and run factories. Food-rationing will continue, as we will have to feed Europe for years to come. All this regimentation and centralization of functions in governmental hands spells the death of Capitalism as it existed before the War. State socialism will be gradually supplanting it in the economic sphere; probably soon, too, in the political field. Some good will result, such as a fairer distribution of what wealth remains, production for use, and an awakening to the fact that government exists for the common good and that this entails at least subsistence for everyone. But with the patriotic motive of winning the War now a thing of the past, with the government supplying jobs, pensions, and controlling everything, with certain administrators entrenched in power, individual initiative enervated by job-freezing, wage and price fixing and the lessening of the profit-principle, the step to dictatorship will be a short one. This is the situation we face after the War, as the author sees it. What can we do to remedy it? We cannot return to traditional Capitalism even if that were desirable. Neither can we embrace Socialism or dictatorship. The middle course we must wend can be followed only with difficulty and only if we prepare now. Prerequisites are a revival of religion and the family and a gathering of the essential facts. Without economic democracy we cannot have political democracy. To ensure the former Dr. Marx proposes: small, democratic and modern guilds comprising both employers and employees, government supervision rather than government management, local planning boards working in conjunction with a national one, fostering of the cooperative movement, and production for local consumption, with the elimination of the middleman and the decentralization of government and industry. These measures will not restore the prosperity we have irretrievably lost, but they offer the best chance to salvage some good from the wreck of the post-war world. The author confesses that the chance is slight and that he doubts whether we have the intelligence and unselfishness to avail ourselves of it. We look forward eagerly to the author's promised book, now in preparation, which will deal more in detail with these matters.

R.P.S.

A Short Life of Kierkegaard. By Walter Lowrie. pp. 271. The Princeton University Press. \$2.75.

Here is a brief and popular introduction to the famous Danish Protestant aesthete, philosopher, and theologian. Mr. Lowrie previously wrote a lengthier biography of the man; this one was obviously undertaken with the hope of ensnaring and making Kierkegaard devotees of those whom the bulkier volume might discourage. If it succeeds in doing so, it may well be by reason of its very brevity and incompleteness; for one does not close this volume knowing Soren Kierkegaard. One closes it realizing that he cannot know the man without reading his works. This is exactly what Mr. Lowrie wishes. Because the Danish scholar was so complex, so many-sided, not only as a person but also as a thinker and writer, his life cannot be compressed into one small book.

Soren Kierkegaard's life was, on the surface, uneventful. His story is that of a thinker, not a man of action. In this biography action finds a place only insofar as it influenced his thought or directed it into new channels. For the rest, the author, by means of copious quotations, permits S. K. to reveal his own thoughts in his own words.

The Kierkegaard presented in these pages is scarcely an attractive person. It is significant that the reader is asked more than once to pity him. Egocentric, superstitious, uncertain of his every move and of himself, he does not evoke ready sympathy, for his torture is both unreasonable and self-inflicted. S. K. was endowed with great intellectual powers; because he used them for everything except the most important thing—directing his own life—he appears in these pages as something of a genius, but only that. Not till the end of his life does one find attractive qualities in him. Then at last he found a cause greater than his preoccupation with himself. To that cause—the reformation of a comfortable, established, self-satisfied Protestantism—he gave himself with a vigor and simplicity which are amazing after all the years of hesitation and introspection. But even at that period the morbid, unhealthy aspect of the man cannot be forgotten. The general excellence of the printing, format and binding of this volume will not offset the unattractiveness of its hero.

T.U.M.

S. Charles Borromeo. By Most Rev. Cesare Orsenigo. pp. 375. B. Herder Book Co., St. Louis, Mo. \$4.00.

The Saints are the only truly great persons of this world. The

story of their lives, when it is well written, is a source of inspiration and encouragement to all. This biography of St. Charles Borromeo is one of those readable, well-written accounts of an interesting, an active, and above all, a saintly life. Not only does it instruct and edify, but it successfully holds the attention of the reader throughout its account of a great man's way to his heavenly home, the goal of all of us.

St. Charles Borromeo was the son of a rich and influential family, the nephew of the pope who made him a cardinal at the age of twenty-one, and the archbishop of Milan at twenty-six. In narrating the extremely fruitful and active life which followed, Monsignor Orsenigo happily abandons the chronological procedure for the topical, a fortunate choice in this case, since the chronology of so varied a career might have become involved, and confused the reader. Rather, he groups the various events into chapters which are complete pictures in themselves, and the result is a pleasing gallery of pictures of St. Charles' life. The book also contains many copies of famous paintings depicting the chief events of the Saint's life. These serve to supplement the charming portrait which the author has drawn for us.

Originally in Italian, this life of St. Charles Borromeo had already been translated in four languages before being presented to English. The author is fortunate in his translator who has given to an English-speaking public a book well worth reading.

T.A.C.

We Stand With Christ. By Rev. Joseph Clifford Fenton, S.T.D. pp. 463. Bruce Publishing Company, Milwaukee, Wis. \$3.75.

Since the middle of the Nineteenth Century, many insidious attacks have been made against the Church of Christ by those outside its fold. None, however, have been more aggressive in their efforts to undermine the very fundamentals on which our Catholic Faith is based than the so-called Rationalists. In their attempts to destroy the Church once and for all, they have devoted their special attention to alleging the untrustworthiness of the New Testament and consequently of all the truths and dogmas which are based on it.

As a result of these attacks, a new era has been opened in the "defense of the Church." Many excellent and scholarly works, true compendiums of apologetic literature, have been produced by Catholic theologians. Most of them have been published only in Latin or French. Some, however, have been either written in English or trans-

lated from foreign tongues. In his most recent book, *We Stand With Christ*, Dr. Fenton has produced an excellent manual of Apologetics. It contains not only all the doctrine included in the other popular texts which have been published in America, but also considerable documentary evidence from the infallible statements of Holy Mother Church. Throughout the book we find Canons from the important Church Councils. They furnish the reader with the positive theological doctrines of the Church in matters of the utmost importance, e.g. revelation, miracles, and prophecies.

One omission we think regrettable is that of a chapter or two devoted to the defense of religion in general—a treatment of the nature and necessity of religion and the obligation incumbent on all men of professing some form of religion in order to fulfill their duties to God. These chapters would have served as an introduction to the defense of the Christian religion, which is properly the aim of Apologetics.

This manual, we think, is one which will meet the needs of students in our colleges and universities. Never before has the need of courses in Apologetics been so evident as at the present time. For this reason we highly recommend Dr. Fenton's book to all professors and students. We believe that in it they will find a veritable storehouse of apologetic literature. We regard the chapter devoted to the Resurrection as a noteworthy contribution which will arouse in the readers and students who use this text, a more wholesome appreciation of this manifestation of the divinity of Christ.

H.H.

Liturgy and Personality. By Dietrich Von Hildebrand. pp. 218. Longmans, Green Company, New York. \$3.00.

At Baptism the Christian inherits the immense wealth of Christ. But, as Christ exclaimed to the Samaritan woman at the well, we do not know the gift of God. If we but knew the gift of Christ buried in the liturgy, we would consider the new ideas which Dietrich Von Hildebrand has so skillfully and admirably brought to the surface as drawn from a treasury containing old things. It is quite patent that the reader of this book will be amazed how well it teaches the principles whereby he can unlock the hidden meaning of the liturgy.

There are many current best-sellers enjoying wide popularity that deal with the formation or renovation of personality. They are sold principally because their blurbs promise new wealth to the reader, some new adjunct to his personality. Such is the tenor of the

jacket. Far greater riches are the reward that will accrue to the reader who pursues the pages of *Liturgy and Personality*.

The term *liturgy*, in this book, is tightly confined within the four dimensions of liturgical function, the Mass, Divine Office, Sacraments and Sacramentals. The treatment is thoroughly theocentric. The author shows that the primary intention of the liturgy is not to enhance the personality of the participant, but rather for the creature to render proper homage to God by his faculties of mind, heart, and tongue.

Only Christ can offer adequate adoration and glory to His Father. He alone can speak in prayer to His Father: "Now is My Father glorified." Only insofar as we put on Christ, as our minds and hearts are bathed in the liturgical life in glorifying God and are transformed by grace into His likeness, can we say we are perfecting our personality. Through Christ, by Christ, and in Christ, since He is the Way, can we develop His Personality in ourselves.

This book is no fictional aberration. The author, using the very words of the liturgy, looks squarely at the infinite fullness of the Trinity and at the comparative nothingness of the creature. The liturgy, above all art forms of this world, allows man the necessary freedom of soul and body to scale this infinite distance and stand before God in a prayer of adoring love.

Pedagogically, the book could be criticised for the doubtful meaning of such terms as "response to value" and "*discretio*." In both cases the words signify profound concepts. Perhaps if more care had been taken in rendering the work into English, or a few more lines of didactic phrasing had been expended, the intrinsic worth of the book would be seen and tasted by more people who are serious about the liturgy and the development of their Christian personality.

H.L.

The Old Testament and the Critics. By Joseph Coppens. Translated from the French by Fathers E. A. Ryan, S.J., and E. W. Tribbe, S.J. pp. 167. St. Anthony Guild Press, Paterson, N. J. \$2.00.

This book gives a clear summary of the history of critical exegesis from its beginnings in the early Nineteenth Century up to the present time. The theory of Julius Wellhausen, ablest exponent of the "new learning" is set forth; the many modifications of the critical school and the latest tendencies of research in the Old Testament are indicated. The third and final chapter sketches the prospects of the future.

To say that this translation is welcome would be putting it mildly. No other book by a Catholic treats so competently of such a complex and important branch of ecclesiastical study. Its great value lies not so much in the excellent bibliography, but in the fact that it provides a guide through the *terra incognita* of rationalistic theories, showing that many of the radical assumptions so dear to the vociferous proponents of these theories (e.g. the reversal of the chronological order of the books of the Law and the prophetic writings, absolute distrust of historical documents, and blind belief in evolution, etc.) have not successfully withstood the test of time and patient re-examination coupled with comparisons of newly-discovered archaeological data.

For one already introduced to the problems of the Old Testament, this book makes fascinating reading. The translation is for the most part very well done. *Dominicana* heartily recommends this excellent piece of work.

O.P.

Shining in Darkness: Dramas of the Nativity and the Resurrection. By Rev. F. X. Talbot, S.J. pp. 153. American Press, N. Y. \$2.00.

It is seldom that an unusual book appears, and when it does it generally goes to some extraordinary extreme. Happily, this is not the case with *Shining in Darkness*; it is unusual, but it is *not* extreme.

Stories based on the Life of Our Saviour are wont to accentuate always His Public Life and His Passion. Sometimes His Birth is given some attention, but that period after His Resurrection is treated only sketchily. Father Talbot has tried to remedy this situation by giving us a book which contains thirteen plays, seven based on the Birth of Jesus in Bethlehem, and six on the Resurrection of Christ from the Dead. Characters are presented who must have been real, and yet of whom no mention is made in Scripture. We feel that the author has made good use of Tradition in his descriptions of persons and places. The *Dramatis Personae* are given very human portrayal; Saint Thomas, the doubter, for example, is presented as most stubborn, and yet when he is face to face with his Risen Master we are bound to love him for his instant acceptance of Him, and his utter helplessness, when he cries: "My Lord, and My God!"

We recommend *Shining in Darkness* for all those who desire an intimate view into some heretofore misty scenes and to those who wish to make the story of Christ better known, and Christ Himself better loved.

F.C.M.

The Better Life. By Rev. Kilian J. Hennrich, O.F.M.,Cap. pp. 310.
Joseph F. Wagner, Inc., N. Y. \$2.50.

Into the already vast field of Tertiary literature comes this commendable and praiseworthy volume. His previous works on Tertiarianism have thoroughly acquainted Father Hennrich with his subject and, consequently, he is in a position to speak with authority. For many years he was a Director of the Third Order of Saint Francis and filled important positions in National Third Order Congresses. He comes to his task exceptionally prepared, and with an equipment specially adapted to the work he has chosen.

The dogmatic or theological side of the Third Order has been much neglected in modern tertiary literature. With this apparent neglect in mind, Father Hennrich has successfully presented Tertiarianism in the light of Holy Scripture, the sacraments, the dogmas, and the liturgy of the Church. Viewed in this manner, the beauty of the worship of Christian living is forcefully brought home to us. The task has been well accomplished, and many will be grateful for the accomplishment: The priest in the first place, for he will find ready at hand sound matter for fruitful development when he is called upon to set forth that subject of which he should never tire—the bringing of a fuller Christian life to Catholics living in the world; the faithful in the second place, for in *The Better Life* they will find the means of holiness most useful and opportune for the defense and progress of the Catholic Faith in walking the busy thoroughfares of the modern world. A.D.

Prayer. By Dom Thomas Verner Moore, O.S.B. pp. 213, with index.
Newman Bookshop, Westminster, Md. \$1.75.

Those already acquainted with the Reverend Doctor Moore know him as one of the foremost of American Catholic psychologists. The author's wide knowledge of both the principles and practices of psychology and medicine, coupled with his priestly insight into human nature, make him eminently suited to give the layman as well as the religious an appreciation of "the beauties of a life of prayer."

Starting with the fundamental relation of man looking to and striving for God as his ultimate end, Dr. Moore develops and clarifies this relationship as it is manifested in the various types and traditions of prayer—life's highest form of intellectual and voluntary expression. For one interested in pursuing the study further, the author has generously placed references throughout his pages.

The initial edition of this volume appeared ten years ago. The

Newman Bookshop very wisely reprints it at this particularly critical time for all Americans, when vast numbers are finding their only real consolation in God through prayer. E.M.

Pen Pictures of Our Lady. By a Sister of St. Joseph. pp. 102. The Peter Reilly Company, Philadelphia. \$0.90.

With a pen for a brush, ink for pigments, and an imaginative understanding for a palette, the author limns these loving word-portraits of the Mother of God. Our Lady is presented under the various aspects of Mother of Sorrows, Queen of Eternity, Lady of Nazareth. Included are chapters on each of the five Joyful Mysteries, on Mary Alone, and on the Last Days of Our Lady. These brief meditations are well suited for use in the praying of the Rosary, ending as each one does with practical reflections and lessons to be drawn from what we know of Mary's life. And although what we know is little, it is a bottomless well from which to draw heavenly waters. If Scripture has been relatively silent about the Mother of God and Men, Tradition, in filial devotion, has hastened to supply the deficiency. Nor has the Church been slow in her liturgy to apply passages of the Old Testament as prefiguring Mary. The author has drawn on these sources, as well as on her own prayerful thinking, in the preparation of her pen-pictures. One wonders, however, why such a tiny volume was not put out in pamphlet form, thus assuring a lower price and wider audience. F.G.R.

The Book of Catholic Authors. Edited by Walter Romig. pp. 332. The Walter Romig Company, Detroit. \$2.20.

Since some knowledge of the author of any written article never detracts from but rather adds to the interest of the reader, *The Book of Catholic Authors* is well worth the short time it takes to read it. Composed of fifty-eight brief autobiographies, it is the second of a very welcome series being compiled to acquaint the Catholic reading public with the authors of the works they peruse.

Of special interest to Dominicans are the lives of the Very Reverend Charles Callan, O.P., the Reverend Vincent Kienberger, O.P. and Mary Windeatt, an authoress well known to readers of the *Torch*.

There is a refreshing informality about the whole work even when the writers concerned prefer to describe their lives and talents in the third person. Variety of styles adds to the readability; it is quite evident in parts that no retouching or changing has been done

by the editor, everything having about it that gay abandon which gives a decidedly first-hand impression.

The Book of Catholic Authors may be highly recommended to all readers of Catholic books and periodicals. The time given to it will be well and pleasantly spent. F.X.F.

A New History of Music. The Middle Ages to Mozart. By Henry Prunières. pp. 413. With an Introduction by Romain Rolland. Translated from the French and edited by Edward Lockspeiser. With bibliography and index. The Macmillan Company, New York. \$5.00.

This book presents for the first time in English the most important work of Henry Prunières. M. Prunières, as one of the foremost music historians of our day, has had a wide influence both within his native France and elsewhere. Thus, when he took upon himself the task of "bringing into the common purview the now definitely gained understanding of one of the most magnificent creations of the western mind: a musical art," the merits of the result could easily be foreseen. The job was in capable hands, and the fruit is a substantial work.

The scope of his matter is vast. It is the story of Western music from the beginnings of Gregorian Chant to the end of the eighteenth century. Dividing his book into two parts, the author deals first with the Middle Ages and the Renaissance. The second part he devotes to the Seventeenth and the Eighteenth Centuries. His treatment of both parts in one volume must necessarily be concise, yet it is complete. A point worthy of note here is the fact that the author writes of the Middle Ages in detail. Many musicologists prefer to tread lightly over this era, but M. Prunières chooses to give us the benefit of his understanding and love of the medieval musical form. This, of itself, is a notable contribution.

In treating his subject the author has not looked upon it as a lifeless relic of the past but as a vital art influencing every subsequent era. Men of genius, as well as men of secondary renown, have been included in this book. The quality of their work has been analyzed; their influence, pointed out. M. Prunières is cosmopolitan enough to give credit whenever it is due to the man regardless of his country.

For liturgical students it will be of special interest to observe the author's treatment of Church music. An entire chapter has been devoted to the Gregorian Chant, its origins and characteristics. The Sacred music of the various schools has been dealt with in several

sections. In this M. Prunières has shown an appreciation of the merits of Church music and of the influence which it has had on secular forms.

As one of the standard works in its field *A New History of Music* will be of value to all. Mr. Lockspeiser's translation has succeeded in giving us a highly-readable version while remaining faithful to the original text. The use of a host of musical illustrations helps to enhance the book's value for students and the cultivated amateur of music. A fine bibliography completes the work. J.T.D.

Understanding Fiction. By Cleanth Brooks, Jr., and Robert Penn Warren. pp. 608, with appendix and glossary. F. S. Crofts & Co., New York. \$1.75.

Like its companion volume, *Understanding Poetry*, this book is intended for college students. It is an anthology of thirty-seven representative short stories with accompanying analyses in which the norms and technique of the short story are established gradually and inductively by the examination and comparison of the various stories. In this way the student is taught to read analytically and intensively before reading extensively. The quality of the stories selected is deliberately uneven, so that defects may be contrasted with stories that are capably handled. Yet the principles of fine writing, rather than the mechanics, wisely receive the emphasis. Conservative and judicious enough to insist on the necessity of the traditional factors of the short story—plot, character, and action—the authors are modern enough in their treatment of the way these factors may be modified and used in varying proportions, as in contemporary short stories, so long as none of them is completely omitted. Stress is laid on the essential unity of fiction. There are conflict and tension, they point out, but these must be followed by a resolution containing the unity of meaning to which all the elements of the story must contribute. Such illuminating analyses enhance the worth of the volume. A bargain at the price for the stories alone, it has in addition all the requisites for a splendid textbook. F.G.R.

California's Missions. By Hildegard Hawthorne. Illustrated by E. H. Suydam. pp. 237. D. Appleton-Century Co., New York. \$5.00.

Perhaps no other time has seen such a revival of interest in the historic missions of California as the present. The introduction of the cause for canonization of Junipero Serra, one of the Pacific Coast's best-known missionaries, has given an immense impulse to the re-

birth of this spirit. The recent announcement that a fleet of Liberty ships, soon to be commissioned, will slide down the ways and out into the seven seas carrying proudly on their prows the names of famous California missions will no doubt add forward motion to this great awakening. It seems, therefore, that Hildegarde Hawthorne's new book, *California Missions*, has arrived at a most opportune moment, at a time when interest is so high and the need for an accurate and unbiased source of information so great. Both of these urgencies are most admirably met by this volume.

As a resident Californian, Miss Hawthorne has been able to write as one who has seen, studied, and felt the beauty, the spirit, the romance, the hardships and the triumphs which were woven into the foundations of these settlements in the centuries now past. The style throughout the book is one of charm, understanding, and effectiveness. A most notable addition is the inclusion of almost half a hundred full-page drawings by which the missions are brought to life for the reader. They will serve as a fitting memorial to their creator, E. H. Suydam, who has passed away since the completion of this work.

In the first chapter, Miss Hawthorne confines herself to the general story behind the beginning of these missions, and in the following chapters takes each mission in particular, in the order of its founding. Her descriptions of the beauty of these settlements and of the work which has been done to restore those which the ravages of time, of weather, and of man have almost obliterated, makes for instructive reading. The combination of Hildegarde Hawthorne's words and E. H. Suydam's distinctive sketches has given the book-loving public a most notable and unique contribution, one usable for historical reference or as a supplier of sheering reading pleasure.

B.D.K.

Some Lies and Errors of History. By Rev. Reuben Parsons, D.D. pp. 393. The Ave Maria Press, Notre Dame, Indiana. \$1.50.

The lies and errors considered by the author are, with perhaps two or three exceptions, among those perennial and somewhat frayed charges thrown in most Catholics' teeth at some time or other. Even in wholly Catholic circles the same falsehoods often simulate truth to such an extent that serious doubts belabor the minds of the well-intentioned. So for at least two evident reasons this new edition is more than welcome: to afford some ready and fairly short answers to

rebukes directed at the Church, and to enlighten the Catholic on issues of more or less concern to himself.

Among the twenty-one controverted historical points considered, it may be well to list the following to show their relative up-to-dateness, although the author originally wrote the essays more than half a century ago: Pope Alexander the Sixth, Galileo, the Inquisition, the Massacre of St. Bartholomew's Day, the Middle Ages, Richelieu as an Ecclesiastic, the Holy Wars, the Orthodox Russian and the schismatic Greek Churches, and Columbus and his alleged crimes.

Although other historians, notably von Pastor, Walsh, and Belloc, have written at far more length, interestingly and authoritatively on some of these topics, it is difficult to find elsewhere such a variety of disputed questions gathered into a single volume. E.M.

The Parables and Metaphors of Our Lord. By G. Campbell Morgan, D.D. pp. 352. Fleming H. Revell Company, New York. \$3.00.

This book cannot be recommended. Catholic readers will hardly be able to agree, for example, that the "rock" on which Christ built His Church (Matt. 16, 18) is not Peter, but God (p. 100); that Christ declared (Matt. 19, 9) that there was one reason for divorce, namely adultery (p. 107); that in John 6, 53-58 our Lord was not referring at all, not even in a secondary sense, to Holy Communion (p. 295). What the author fails to write is, in many instances, even more striking. To say the least, his notions of faith (p. 230) and of being born again of water and the Holy Spirit (p. 272) are different from what the Catholic Church understands by Faith and the Sacrament of Baptism. Again the remarks on the allegory of the vine (John 15) will sound strange to ears accustomed to the Catholic teaching on Grace. Now that Father Callan has published his volume on the Parables, and the Catholic Biblical Association its commentary on the New Testament, Catholics have little to gain by resort to such books as this. M.O'B.

When Ye Pray Pray Ye Thus. By Rev. Joseph Strugnell. pp. 51. Saint Anthony Guild Press, Paterson, N. J. \$1.00.

If prayer is to be a lifting up of the mind and heart to God, it is clear that a mere mechanical recitation of prayer-formulas will not suffice. It is often difficult to teach children to pray properly. For them, prayer usually remains a mumbling of words they have learned by rote. To overcome this defect, the author has prepared what he characterizes as a "study-book" rather than a "prayer-book." All the

familiar prayers are there, but so arranged typographically by means of indentation, spacing, etc., as to bring out the leading thought of each prayer and to show how the subservient ideas are related to it. Appropriately simple, yet reverent illustrations accompany the text, which includes an explanation of the origin and purpose of each prayer, the manner of reciting it, and a list of indulgences to be gained by its recital.

Teachers will find the book a boon; furtive glances may be cast at it with profit by the layman honest enough to admit that he has forgotten or never properly understood the prayers of his childhood, as well as by the priest anxious to learn how to break up a prayer properly for public recitation.

T.H.S.

Celestial Homespun. The life of Isaac Thomas Hecker. By Katherine Burton. pp. 384. Bibliography and index. Longmans, Green and Co., New York. \$3.00.

Mrs. Burton's latest biography, an expansion of a sketch from her former volume, *In No Strange Land*, can be divided into two unequal sections: Isaac Hecker, the Seeker, and Father Isaac Thomas Hecker, the Sharer. The first part, the search for the priceless treasure of the True Faith, leads the young clockmaker and baker from his mother's Methodism to the New England Transcendentalists by way of Orestes Brownson, then close to Episcopalianism, and finally into the Catholic Church. This section is very interesting, as most adventures are. The second and much longer part deals with Hecker's studies for the priesthood in the Redemptorist Congregation, his discharge with Papal permission to found another congregation to share more effectively the Truth which he discovered after his long and tortuous search, and his life's work in the conversion of his non-Catholic Americans. Father Hecker used to say: "The Protestants I want to help with my right hand, and the Catholics with my left." (p. 279) This was what made both Catholics and Protestants who really knew him, love and admire him, although others, like Emerson, Alcott and Thoreau—"three consecrated cranks" (p. 282), could never see Father Hecker as he really was. In this section, as in the first, Mrs. Burton proves how well she knows her subject. Her portrait of Father Hecker, the founder of the Paulists and "The Catholic World," is truly Catholic and American—a forceful refutation of the opinion that a Catholic cannot be a good American.

Celestial Homespun is a volume not to be passed over in the bookstore display, but to be taken down for pleasurable and profitable reading by both Catholics and Protestants.

A.M.J.

The Divine Armory of Holy Scripture. By Rev. Kenelm Vaughan. pp. 444. Indexed. B. Herder Book Company, St. Louis, Mo. \$3.00.

What was always an invaluable aid for the intelligent and interested Catholic now appears in a dress that is more attractive and designed for more facile use. *The Divine Armory* is a collection of Scriptural texts arranged in topical order. Under its six main headings on God, Our Last End, Virtues and Vices, the Word of God, Sin, and the Four Last Things, it comprises over five hundred subjects under which are given all the appropriate citations from the Bible. In this way it fulfills some of the functions of a concordance. It has its own peculiar value, however, in that it arranges the texts according to similarity of ideas and not of words. And it is not content merely to refer the reader to the proper place in the Bible, but repeats the whole relevant passage. Thus if you wish to know all the texts relating to any sacrament or to any mystery of the Rosary, or the seven last words of Our Lord or the seven sorrows of His Mother, or lists of the parables, miracles, visions and symbols of the Old and New Testaments, you will find these flowers already picked and arranged in a bouquet for you. The advantages to the busy priest writing a sermon, or to the religious engaged in meditation are too manifest to need further mention. It is also an easy and profitable way for the layman to read the Scriptures and to become better acquainted with his religion. There are, for example, the meditations on death for every day of the week, consisting solely of the inspired words of the Bible. A masterpiece of orderly disposition, a saver of time and labor, and an inexhaustible source of fruitful reflections, this new and revised edition deserves a widespread public.

T.K.N.

Say the Bells of Old Missions. By Elizabeth Willis DeHuff. B. Herder Co., St. Louis, Mo. pp. 168. \$1.75.

Mission bells usually call to mind the famed old missions of California. However, in this selected collection of Catholic Indian legends, the author takes us to the less familiar settings of New Mexico, whose missions antedate those of California by more than 150 years.

The bells of these historic adobe churches ring out a delightful song of legends, tales, and stories as numerous as the missions and as varied as the tones of the bells. As the reader easily peruses the pages, he receives an insight into the customs, habits, and culture of our Indian predecessors. A characteristic note is struck by the pervading influence of religion upon the common occurrences of daily

life. The Christ-Child, Our Lady, St. Joseph, and the Patron Saints are met, not in a doctrinal setting, but as intimate friends of the padre and his flock—all characters around whom these legends have gathered through the centuries.

This instructive and enjoyable volume is recommended to all, especially those interested in early Catholic missions, and Indian ethnology. The work is supplemented by a brief appendix, listing the names and known facts of New Mexico Pueblo missions, and the native celebration of patronal feasts.

J.T.S.

On the Priesthood. By Saint John Chrysostom. Translated from the Greek by the Reverend Patrick Boyle, C.M. pp. 145. The Newman Bookshop, Westminster, Md. \$1.25.

The torrential effusion of eloquence from the mouth of John, Bishop of Constantinople in the Fourth Century, has merited for him perduring recognition as the prince of Christian orators. When sanctity combines with high rhetorical powers in the treatment of a state of life at once the object of profound respect and of fervid love on the part of the writer, only a masterpiece can result. *On the Priesthood* has been so recognized for centuries. The limpid English rendering of Father Boyle will serve to enlarge the circle of its admirers.

The occasion of this treatise in dialogue form was an incident in Chrysostom's early manhood. His intimate friend Basil, hearing that they are both to be raised to the episcopal rank, begs Chrysostom to stand united with him in his decision, whether it is to accept the dignity or to refuse it. By clever evasion of a direct answer, Chrysostom leaves Basil with the impression that he will do so. But when the bishops arrive and consecrate Basil, he finds that Chrysostom has escaped the honor by flight. When Basil later reproaches his friend, Chrysostom explains his motives: a deep sense of his own unworthiness and of the exacting demands of the office have inspired his action. Forthwith he launches upon an exposition of the excellence, cares, duties and requirements of the priesthood and episcopacy. He dwells on the need of good priests, the difficulties and dangers of the office, the temptations it offers a vain and ambitious man, the harm wreaked on the faithful by inept and unqualified pastors, the moral and intellectual virtues required of a bishop or priest who must preach well, defend the Church from attacks, judge the faithful, guide religious, and care for the poor. Stress is laid on the responsibility of the pastor for the souls placed in his care. It would be pre-

sumptuous to attempt to evaluate this treatise in any further detail. Let Chrysostom speak for himself as he alone can. We recommend the book to all priests and ecclesiastical students T.K.N.

BOOKS RECEIVED

Reviews may appear later

- TWILIGHT OF CIVILIZATION. *By Jacques Maritain.* Sheed and Ward. \$1.50.
 THIS MAN WAS IRELAND. *By Robert Farren.* Sheed and Ward. \$3.00.
 SOCIOCULTURAL CAUSALITY, SPACE, TIME. *By Pitirim A. Sorokin.* Duke. \$3.50.
 NATIONAL LITURGICAL WEEK, 1942. Benedictine Liturgical Conference. \$1.50.
 THE ETERNAL PURPOSE. *By Blanche Mary Kelly.* Harper & Brothers. \$1.50.
 THOMISTIC PRINCIPLES. *Edited by Theodore Brauer.* B. Herder Book Co. \$2.50.
 THE CONFESSIONS OF ST. AUGUSTINE. *Translated by F. J. Sheed.* Sheed and Ward. \$3.00.
 THE TRUE LIFE. *By Dom Luigi Sturzo.* St. Anthony Guild Press. \$3.00.
 ENGLISH SOCIAL HISTORY. *By G. M. Trevelyan.* Longmans, Green & Co. \$4.50.

PAMPHLETS RECEIVED

OUR SUNDAY VISITOR PRESS, Huntington, Indiana:

- TOGETHER IN CHRIST. *By Rev. Edward L. Hestton.* \$0.10.
 COMICS. *By Sister Mary Clare, S.N.D.* \$0.10.
 WHO IS JESUS? *By Rev. Frederick Houck.* \$0.10.
 UNTIL DEATH DO US PART. *By John A. O'Brien.* \$0.10.
 THE CHURCH OF CHRIST, INC. *By Rev. Richard Ginder.* \$0.10.
 MY NAME IS WRITTEN IN HIS HEART. *By Rev. Eugene P. Murphy, S.J.* \$0.10.

SAINT ANTHONY GUILD PRESS, Paterson, N. J.:

- THE PARENT-EDUCATOR, NEW SERIES, VOL. 4: TEACHING HONESTY IN THE HOME. \$0.20.
 THE LAST SUPPER EVERY DAY. *By Rev. Valentine Long, O.F.M.* \$0.05.
 BLESSED ARE THE PURE OF HEART. *By Rev. Isidore O'Brien, O.F.M.* \$0.05.
 CATECISMO DE LA PRIMERA COMUNION. \$0.05.
 NEW TESTAMENT READING FOR SYLLABUS II. THE LIFE OF CHRIST, PART II. \$0.20.

MARIE, SISTER OF ST. THERESE. *Written by Pauline, another sister of the Little Flower. Edited by Rev. Albert H. Dolan, O.Carm.* The Carmelite Press, Englewood, N. J. Paper, \$0.50; cloth, \$1.00.

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