

To the "prodigal as yet content with the husks of life's fruitage, relishing only the food of swine," as well as to souls in God's grace, but not fervent enough, he offers a little book worthy of long and careful study. Its pages teem with sentences containing a world of thought. Yet their burden resolves itself to: "It is very unfortunate that I do not appreciate them (the gifts and fruits of the Holy Ghost), but it is something at least to know they are there. It is a nuisance that I do not see Him, but it is something at least to be certain He is within me."

Fr. Jarrett's book shows us how He is in us. And meditation on the fruits of this indwelling, as he presents them, cannot help but make the reader appreciate at least in some small degree the sublime changes that the Spirit of Love works in us. ——— C. D.

Shepherd My Thoughts. The Verses of Francis P. Donnelly. Pp. 148. P. J. Kenedy & Sons, New York. 75 cents net.

This attractive volume contains the poetic effusions of a truly Christian soul. Its themes are generally religious; and those which are not, are concerned principally with a subject second only in importance to the love and worship of God—loyalty and devotion to country. The author has not the humor of a T. A. Daly, nor does he in those few poems in which children are mentioned reveal a J. W. Riley's knowledge of and sympathy with the child's heart. But his purpose is more exalted than theirs, and, in consequence, his thoughts are more elevating and his style more refined.

"Shepherd My Thoughts," the first words of a line which terminates with "And fold them into prayer," is a most appropriate title for the entire collection; for the subsequent poems are so full of tender piety and so rich in Christian sentiment that they seem to be but a realization of his petition.

Some of Father Donnelly's verses have already been favorably received by the literary world; in fact, that charming poem, "What an Irishman Means by Machree," adapted to music, has become quite popular. And we feel sure that his other efforts will not be less appreciated, for these also breathe a spirit of optimism and joyfulness which readily communicates itself to the reader. Like Faber, the author would move the hearts of his readers not by dwelling upon the woes and miseries of the present life, but by insisting upon the happiness which comes from serving Christ, and by keeping constantly before them the prospect of a blessed eternity.

The songs, then, which he sings are songs of Christian hope and religious cheerfulness, and will for that very reason be a most welcome addition to the library of Catholic poetry, which already contains the deep, melancholy notes of Fr. Ryan, the even, unruffled strains of Adelaide Proctor, the soft, dulcet modulations of Fr. Tabb and the sharp, piercing cries of Francis Thompson. C. McC.

God and Myself: An Inquiry into the True Religion. By Martin J. Scott, S. J. P. J. Kenedy & Sons, New York. \$1.00 net; cloth, 25 cents. Pp. 181.

This little volume merits a careful perusal by Catholics and also by the large number of those outside the fold who wish to investigate the claims of the true religion of Jesus Christ.

In our estimation "God and Myself" is the greatest book of its kind that has appeared since the publication of "The Faith of Our Fathers."

In its first part the author treats of the fundamentals of religion, simply yet scientifically, pleasingly yet convincingly, and then shows that the Catholic Church is indisputably the one true Church of God. The second part is taken up with brief explanations of the principal teachings of our holy Faith, such as the infallibility of the Pope, the Bible, the existence of hell and the prerogatives of our Blessed Lady.

Father Scott has in an unusual degree the faculty of making difficulties clear by means of homely examples. This power is manifest throughout the work, but is especially evidenced in "World Calamities and Providence" and "Rationalism and Materialism"—two chapters that are masterpieces of simple logic in solid thought presentation.

The non-Catholic should have "God and Myself," because if he is fair-minded the study of it would, with God's grace, convert him. The Catholic certainly should have it, because acquaintance with its contents will make him a more intelligent Christian and a more thankful and fervent member of God's true Church. The book contains an introduction by His Eminence Cardinal Gibbons. B. S.

The Externals of the Catholic Church. By Rev. J. F. Sullivan of the Diocese of Providence. P. J. Kenedy & Sons, New York. \$1.50 net; \$1.65 postpaid. Pp. 376.

The title of this splendid work suggests the comprehensiveness of the subject with which it deals but does not indicate the pleasurable and engaging manner in which the author elucidates the significance of the thousand and one things external to the life of the Church. "The Externals of the Catholic Church" includes an explanation of the Government of the Church; the Religious State; Administration of the Sacraments; the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass; the Ecclesiastical Year; Liturgical Books; Devotions; and in the last part, sixteen miscellaneous topics, such as Church Music, Marriage Laws and the Canonization of Saints. Yet so satisfactorily does Father Sullivan treat everything he touches upon that the reader is led to wonder how such a full explanation could be compressed into a convenient and attractive volume not more than an inch thick. In his wide range of topics we have noticed only one omission, the Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament, which we trust will be added in another edition.

The learned author has handled his subject not only efficiently but most interestingly as well. His style is direct and simple. He is terse and precise while sacrificing neither clearness of expression nor pungency of phrase.

"The Externals of the Catholic Church" is, we believe, the only book of its kind in English, and perhaps in the world. Among its most interesting features are the side-page drawings, which illustrates the objects explained and serve to impress all the more vividly the content of the text upon the mind. We cannot too strongly recommend this instructive volume to every practical Catholic who wishes to have an intelligent understanding of the government, ceremonies and festivals of the Church. X. D.

Anecdote-Sermonettes for Children's Mass. By Rev. Fred Reuter. John Murphy Company, Baltimore. 75 cents net. Pp. 97.

It is an old saying, and a true one, that "the child is father to the man." That the influences under which the child lives leave their mark upon his soul throughout life is undeniable. Hence the responsibility

resting on parents, pastors and teachers of so instructing children that the men and women of the future may be intelligent, pure and correctly disposed in all their relations toward God. But to do this is no easy task. To impress on the young mind needed images and to mould properly the forming character is peculiarly difficult.

"Anecdote-Sermonettes for Children's Mass" is a little book which deserves to be read by all lovers of the Christian Faith, and especially by all charged in any way with the religious care of children. In language adapted to the capacity of youthful minds and in a manner which appeals to young hearts, it explains a number of the principal feasts of the liturgical year, including Corpus Christi, the Immaculate Conception, the Assumption, Christmas and the Feast of the Holy Guardian Angels. Father Reuter with remarkable skill has interwoven simple doctrinal instructions with little incidents from real life. These anecdotes are of such a nature as to hold the attention of children and impress indelibly upon their minds the dogmatic points proposed. The interesting illustration is always a powerful aid to remembering. The book from this point of view is both unique and useful. "Anecdote-Sermonettes for Children's Mass" deserves a large sale, since its use will enable instructors and parents, as well as priests, to work more unitedly with God and therefore more effectively for God. A. M.

Passio Christi, Meditation for Lent. By Mother St. Paul. Longmans, Green & Company, New York. \$1.40 net. Pp. 182.

Meditation on the Passion of Our Lord has been the well-spring of sanctification for men and women in all ages. Mother St. Paul, the authoress of "Passio Christi, Meditations for Lent," is in charge of the famous House of Retreats, Birmingham, England. Such a position, calling upon her to spend many hours each week in silent colloquy with the Master, lends to her book exceptional prestige. The dominant thoughts of the work have been drawn from the Gospels, the Epistles and the liturgy, regard always being had for the subject, and the feeding of the memory, will and understanding on rich but simple meditative food.

The text is not burdened with foreign phrases nor intense speculative reasoning; and on this account the volume will be as valuable in the hands of an ordinary layman as in the choir-stall of the religious. By its simple, colloquial style the reader is irresistibly lead to reflect on the points proposed. This, we think, is the work's peculiar and most striking feature. We recommend "Passio Christi" as a guide to Lenten meditation, and for spiritual reading at any and all seasons of the year. R. B.

The "Our Father," a Course of Seven Lenten Sermons. By Rev. L. Ruland. Joseph F. Wagner (Inc.), New York. 40 cents net. Pp. 57.

For nearly two thousand years innumerable tongues have been giving expression to the "Our Father." This sublime prayer forms the frequent petition of three hundred million souls and more. Yet how few grasp the significance of its simple words, first uttered by our Divine Redeemer Himself! How seldom does any one stop to reflect on the profound depths of its pathos and its power!

Father Ruland, in his "Course of Seven Lenten Sermons," gives us in plain yet beautiful words the circumstances under which this greatest of all prayers began. He tells us where, when, how, why, Jesus

Christ said the "Our Father," and enjoined its repetition upon those who desired to be numbered among His followers. In addition to this, Father Ruland furnishes a lucid and adequate explanation of the "Lord's Prayer" itself, thus opening up for us wide vistas of wholesome thought and bringing us into closer union with Jesus Christ our Saviour.

Such a sentiment as the following, quoted from one of the Sermons, has doubtless brought immeasurable solace to many a heart tempted to despondency: "When we say the words of the 'Our Father' we give utterance to our hope of a heavenly inheritance after our earthly conflict is over. But the sufferings and struggles of this world are intended to purify our souls, so that we may grow in grace and become true children of God worthy of the imperishable inheritance prepared for us by our Father who is in heaven."

For a fuller appreciation of the hidden beauties of the "Our Father" we recommend the study of "The Our Father, a Course of Seven Lenten Sermons."
C. McE.

Teaching Children the Mass. By Rev. Francis A. Gaffney, O. P. The Rosary Press, Somerset, Ohio. Pp. 26.

A pamphlet of 26 pages containing matter gathered from miscellaneous sources and condensed into a form which will prove helpful to teachers. Little rhyming stanzas are interpolated, designed to aid the pupil in memorizing the contents proper.
M. M.

From Ratisbon Cloisters. Edited by Christine Sevier; with an Introduction by Father Elliot, C. S. P.

The Dominican Sisters of the Diocese of Brooklyn are to be congratulated on having secured so able a chronicler as Christine Sevier. In their brochure, "From Ratisbon Cloisters," which represents the acme of printery, the writer's aim to be both practical and historical has been achieved. With facile penman's deftness has this story of a community which can trace its lineage back to the Blessed Saint of Calaruega, been told. The early struggles of the community make one realize that their past was not one unbroken modulation of joyful song, but must have been, on the contrary, the bitter-sweet threnody of toilers beneath the Cross.

"From Ratisbon Cloisters" is an argument against those who would impugn the life of combined activity and contemplation; for it tells of the religious spirit of the first Sisters "hid in Christ with God." It tells of the establishment of convents, schools, orphanages and hospitals. Truly may it be said that the foundresses of the community builded wiser than they knew. Or, rather, it was God who builded for them. Not the least interesting portion in the book is the account of the community's Foreign Mission activity in Porto Rico, where sixteen Sisters are instructing Christ's little ones unto justice. Well have these Sisters of Lima's St. Rose kept the crystal heritage which the dying St. Dominic bequeathed to his weeping children.

Thrice welcome is this cheery brochure telling of those heroines whose praise is in the Church. Nothing is more acceptable to the Preaching Brothers than the dedication of these cloister chords so musically redolent of true Dominican loyalty and sacrifice. The prayers of the friars will rise heavenward beseeching God that the present community may also lead countless souls in the footsteps of Mary, Dominic and Catharine to the kingdom of the Blessed Christ.
—F. K.

"The Morning Star" of New Orleans, commemorated in its issue of April 6th the Golden Jubilee of its establishment, which corresponds to the two-hundredth anniversary of the foundation of Christianity in the ancient Louisiana Province, and also to the second centenary of the settlement of New Orleans. This special number of "The Morning Star" is in large magazine form. Across its forty-eight pages flit Indians, Frenchmen, traders, soldiers and Spaniards, side by side with the heroic sons of Francis, Dominic, Ignatius, Vincent de Paul, Olier, and other self-sacrificing clergymen both diocesan and regular.

The anniversary number presents a vivid picture of the apostolic life in the great Southland. It portrays the work of noble pioneer priests whose life motto was "to love to be unknown and to be esteemed as naught." To outline the activities of the early missionaries and pioneer bishops, to trace the ramifications of the influence in public and parochial life of the past and present generations of the Louisiana hierarchy, clergy and laity, to throw an almost poetic beauty round cold historic facts, has been the object of the special number of "The Morning Star"; and indeed it has achieved its aim so well as to make itself a veritable spiritual romance, the splendid story of another City of God builded on the banks of the Lower Mississippi.

To the collaborators of the Jubilee edition and to the able editress, Miss Marie Louise Points, Dominicana extends felicitations and expresses the hope of seeing it take a more prominent form under some such title as "Catholicity in the Louisiana Province." Acceptable the time to edify the world with the story of the Conquistadores, of the labors of the early missionaries; not less than the heroic achievements of the deceased bishops of later times who are the "crown and joy" of the Church in New Orleans—from Penalver and Rosati to the saintly Chapelle and Blenk.

—F. K.

