

## THE FRIARS' BOOK-SHELF

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**A Primer of Plain Chant.** By V. C. Donovan, O. P. P. J. Kennedy & Sons, New York City. Price, \$1.25.

The question has often been asked why so little heed has been given to the decrees of the Popes on Plain Chant. One explanation may be that the subject seems to many to be bristling with difficulties and that it requires labor and endeavor that cannot be expended by those interested in the subject.

But once for all Fr. Donovan has dispelled the seemingly intricate maze of the Chant. He treats of the fundamentals only, and handles them in a clear, logical and entertaining manner. Much to our satisfaction, he has cast aside the weight usually concomitant with a didactic work of the kind, but without in the least losing any of his authority by undue lightness. The possible tedium has been relieved by wise, pertinent observations. The chapters on Breathing, Chanting and Harmony are especially to be noted for their excellence. For the benefit of those who are looking for edifying and beautiful Masses, a bibliography has been added.

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J. W.

**Devotion to the Sacred Heart.** By Rev. Joseph Petrovits, J. C. B., S. T. D. B. Herder, St. Louis, Mo. Pages, 281. Price, \$1.25.

The tendency of the modern irreligious world to ridicule devotional practices should render the present volume most acceptable to all lovers of the Sacred Heart. After premising in the opening chapters a short history of the devotion, the author proceeds to a profound examination of the reasons which warrant it. He discusses the nature of the cult, its material and formal objects, and clearly sets forth the solid theological basis on which it rests. The average reader, however, will be especially interested in the final chapters, which contain a scholarly investigation of the historicity and text of the Great Promise, and of the various interpretations given to it. The conclusion of the writer is a mean between the opinion which regards the Great Promise as an infallible assurance of final repentance and that of those who reject it altogether. The work is characterized by thoroughness and solid reasoning. It is evidently the result of deep study and extensive research, and is the first systematic treatment of

this subject in English. The style is readable and the book is in every respect deserving of a wide circulation. T. G.

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**The Mass Every Day in the Year.** The Roman Missal translated and arranged by Ed. A. Pace and J. J. Wynne, S. J. The Home Press, New York City. Pages, 1485. Price, \$2.50.

**The Mass on Sundays, Holy Days and Days of Special Observance.** By Rev. John J. Wynne, S. J. The Home Press, New York City. Pages, 567. Price, \$1.25.

Man's best work is prayer. By it we communicate with Almighty God. But as we know not of ourselves how to pray as we ought, the Church teaches us through the Spirit of Grace sent down by our heavenly Father. Favored so divinely, the supplications of the Church cannot fail to please God and to draw down an answer in our behalf. The towering prayer of our religion, the supreme act of Christian worship around which every practise and petition centers, is the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. As a help to unite our prayers more closely with those of the Church during this Holy Sacrifice these two books are highly useful. Giving in English the very words of the priest, they enable one to enter into the spirit of the Mass, and thus to partake more fully of its benefits.

Both books have the same intrinsic merits, the latter being only an abridged copy of the former. Explicit directions are given, making the Mass easy to follow. Compact in size, legibly printed and bound neatly in cloth, these books cannot fail to please.

M. D. P.

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**To the Heart of the Child.** By Josephine Van Dyke Brownson. The Encyclopedia Press, Inc., New York City. Pages, 193. Price, \$1.00.

In late years much has been written on the psychology of religious instruction, great stress being put upon the inadequacy of the child's committing to memory the studied formulas of the catechism, unless it be accompanied with illustrations calculated to inspire interest. But while the want has been felt by many, few have done anything practical towards relieving it. In this attractive volume all the essentials of Bible history and christian dogma are set down in language that will compel attention. The same simple and sprightly flow of talk that plays upon the

child's over-readiness to listen in wonder to the telling of a fairy tale is here summoned to a nobler service. Following these lessons, with the aid of a blackboard and other class room devices that are suggested, success in this the highest branch of instruction should be reached. The work is a masterpiece, and should be universally distributed among all whose charge it is to see to the early education of Catholic children. U. C.

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**Manna of the Soul.** By Fr. F. X. Lasance. Thin Edition. Pages, 216. Price, 75c. to \$3.75 according to leather binding. Benziger Bros., New York City.

Any one who wishes a small prayer-book will be delighted with this. Though thin, it has a clear, legible type printed on fine India paper. Nor has intrinsic merit been sacrificed for littleness, since it is a real prayer-book containing all the prayers for Mass and the principal devotions of the Church. Most of them, too, are indulgenced. Special attention has been given to prayers for Holy Communion. The book is a gem.

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**The High Romance.** By Michael Williams. The Macmillan Co., New York City. Pages, 350. Price, \$1.60.

Here is a striking book, a book with a noble mission. Though it is in reality Mr. Williams' autobiography, it reads like a novel. It is the intimate history of a soul. And no greater tribute could be paid to the style than it reflects exactly the lights and shadows which have played across the surface and even penetrated to the depths of this soul. It is simple and frank, and forceful and interesting because of its simplicity and ingenuousness. Yet one reads it not for its literary value so much as for its message. And this is the message of Catholicism to the modern pagan. How effectively the book is accomplishing its apostolic mission it is evident not only from the fact that it has gone into a third edition, but still more from the wonderful letters which have poured in on the author from those who have read it. It has brought well-merited praise from men and women of every description and all beliefs, many, if not most, of them testifying to the spiritual good this romantic tale has done them. It should be read by every one and advertised by all who read it. We anticipate with joy and thanksgiving the future works of this writer, who has a mission even greater than his book's. E. H.

**The Bedrock of Belief.** By Wm. F. Robison, S. J. B. Herder, St. Louis, Mo. Price, \$1.25 net.

This is the third volume of an excellent series of apologetic lectures delivered in the collegiate church of St. Francis Xavier, St. Louis. All three books fill a great need; and those who have read "Christ's Masterpiece" and "His Only Son" will receive this last with pleasure. The author set himself to answer three practical questions: Why become a Catholic? Why become even a Christian? Why profess a religion at all? And he has answered them well. The good old arguments are given a popular form, and this, together with the attractive binding, ought to commend the work to all seekers after truth. All three volumes should be in every home library.

C. W.

**A History of Spain.** By Charles E. Chapman, Ph. D. The Macmillan Co., New York. Pages, 559. Price, \$2.60.

Mr. Chapman has not assumed the role of an original historian. This book is in great part a summary or rather a selection from Rafael Altamira's "History of Spain and its Civilization"—the latest and perhaps the most accurate history of Spain that as yet has been published.

Two things were held in view by Mr. Chapman in reducing the whole wide sweep of the evolution of Spanish history within the limit of a single volume: He has placed special emphasis on the growth of civilization and on social, economic and intellectual institutions, giving a secondary importance to political events; second, he has treated the Spanish history not so much from the standpoint of its part in the European events, but rather in its interior national life, and its influence in America.

The disadvantage of this historical method, that hinders the reader to form an exact idea of the important part played by Spain in the European affairs, is partially compensated by the special stress laid on her overseas colonies—the Americas.

Withal, Chapman's book is the best one volume history of Spain written by a foreign pen. He sees Spanish history and life correctly and free from fanciful whims and the calumnies that historians and travelers have heaped upon the Iberian peninsula. His views on the Catholic Church in Spain are overshadowed with a slight liberal tinge, but his appreciations on the whole are regulated by a calm, impartial criticism and by the strictest accuracy. His personal remarks and conclusions on the present con-

ditions and on the future of Spain are a faithful portrait of the Spanish character so often misunderstood and misrepresented.

J. L.

**Your Neighbor and You.** By Rev. E. F. Garesche, S. J. Benziger Bros., New York City. Pages, 215. Price, 75 cents; by mail 85 cents.

Father Garesche has written a work that will be of service to every Catholic man and woman. There are many who, imbued with the force, the beauty and the truth of our faith, and fired with the charity of God, sincerely desire to be of help to their fellow men, especially when it pertains to the work of their eternal salvation, but who feel forced to remain inactive because they are uncertain what to do or how to proceed. These kind, earnest and interesting chapters will be a source of joy, inspiration and strength to their readers, for they point out to such persons many a field where God and neighbor may be served, propose methods of action, and suggest motives which will nerve one for the struggle. It is a book to be read a chapter at a time, for each is complete in itself, a full meal for mind and will on any occasion. It is a book, too, that is worth taking up constantly because it speaks to us on things of vital importance. N. F. G.

**The Hawkesyard Review.** Hawkesyard, Rugeley, Staffs.

The Novices of the English Province are to be felicitated on the last issue of their review. They have maintained the high excellence of their publication not only in the character of the subjects treated, but also in the fertility of the thought and in the clearness of the expression with which the themes have been developed. Aside from the intrinsic worth of its subject matter, the Hawkesyard Review commends itself to us for its general makeup which embodies a lofty idealism indicative of great promise.

D. D.

**The Tallaght Record.** Price 5d per year. The Tallaght Record, Tallaght, Co. Dublin.

The initial number of this publication of the Novices of the Irish Province has come to us. We most heartily welcome its appearance in the field of novitiate publications, and we feel that it will be a continual source of inspiration to us. The first number has been a subject of sincere admiration here, and we congratulate our Irish brothers on the magnificent beginning which they have made.

D. D.