

the attacks of the heretics. In less dangerous times other doctors would build upon his foundation.

Mr. Shapland presents to his readers more than a smooth translation. The apparatus he has added shows a historical and theological skill as well as literary accomplishment. The aids to the reader include a profuse number of footnotes, indices, outlines, and historical introductions. Mr. Shapland appears to be an Anglican. But evidence of this is found only in the translator's introduction and not in the work itself.

C.B.

The Stumbling Block. By Francois Mauriac. New York, Philosophical Library, 1952. pp. iv, 79. \$2.75.

Francois Mauriac wrote this little book with the intention of setting down his thoughts "about the things which have to do with the one thing which is indispensable." Writing about a spiritual state and recording his reactions as a Catholic, M. Mauriac presents some of the "manifest abuses" among worshippers. He is often irritated and embarrassed by those zealots, "the pious Barnums of the Holy Church," who consider faith in quantity rather than in quality.

M. Mauriac argues for a democratic Christianity, a militant Catholicism, and a love for the truth. But how can these things become real without holy preachers of the Word of God? M. Mauriac professes to be unmoved by their efforts. He refers to preachers in this puzzling fashion: "When I hear a holy orator speak forth in eloquence, I wonder whether he really hopes, whether he has any reason for hoping, that souls can be changed from the height of the pulpit; I would like to believe so, but it scarcely seems credible to me! I confess that, for my part, he usually inspires in me nothing but the wish to calm him, and say to him: 'Don't work up a sweat, you'll make yourself ill.'"

Apart from its literary value, *The Stumbling Block* offers little to the reader. In fact, it may be far more dangerous than any of the abuses to which the book calls attention. Many statements concerning the spiritual order lack accuracy of expression. Consequently, this book cannot be recommended to anyone, save the extremely cautious reader.

C.H.O'B.

Gregorian Chant. By Marie Pierik. St. Meinrad, Indiana, Grail Publication, 1951. pp. 126. \$3.00.

The name of Marie Pierik is well known in Catholic musical circles through her two previous books: *The Spirit of Gregorian Chant*

and *The Song of the Chant*. Now she has given us a book in which Gregorian Chant is analyzed and studied in the same manner in which she has presented it to her classes during the past three decades. Judging by the book, she has been a most successful teacher.

Pope Pius X imposed upon the people anew the obligation of singing the Ordinary of the Mass: Kyrie, Gloria, Credo, Sanctus, and the Agnus Dei. Marie Pierik has spent a life time doing her share of labor in trying to bring this wish of the Holy Father into reality. Here she has produced a textbook in which the art of interpreting chant has not assumed theoretical airs of a complicated and intricate nature.

The work opens with a brief prologue highlighting Jesus as the first Christian Cantor. Then in the first three chapters are found a history of Gregorian Chant, of the Proper of the Mass, and of the Ordinary. Chapter the Fourth describes and illustrates the neums, gives the pronunciation of Liturgical Latin, outlines a few breathing and vocal exercises, and analyzes the relation of rhythm and interpretation of the verbal and musical text. To illustrate perfectly what she means in a practical way, she closes her work with an analysis of a complete Ordinary with chironomic drawings. This work is recommended to all musicians and to priests who may be encouraged to start congregational singing through this review of the rules on Chant.

A.G.

The Children of LaSalette. By Mary Fabian Windeatt. St. Meinrad, Indiana, Grail Publication, 1951. pp. 187. \$2.50.

The Children of LaSalette is a strong and beautiful story, which was enacted in 1846. Our Lady appeared to two children at La Salette, in the diocese of Grenoble, France. She told them of her weariness in restraining the avenging hand of her Son, set to strike a sinful humanity. She was weeping when she said to them: "Come near, my children. And don't be afraid. I am here to tell you great news. If my people do not submit, I shall be forced to let go the hand of my Son. It is so strong, so heavy, that I can no longer withhold it. How long a time have I suffered for you! . . . Six days have I given you to labor, the seventh day I have kept for myself, and they will not give it to me. Those who drive the carts cannot swear without introducing the name of my Son. These are two things which make the hand of my Son so heavy."

At the time, the apparition of La Salette caused considerable commotion in France and thousands flocked there. Eventually, a beautiful basilica was erected and it has been the scene of countless miracles.