

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*