

**Western Mysticism.** By Dom Cuthbert Butler. Pp. 344. \$5.00. E. P. Dutton & Co., N. Y. C.

Contemplation is an important avenue of Christian life open to all and not merely to a few elect souls. Mysticism, on the other hand, as commonly presented to us today with visions, revelations and other supernatural accompaniments, seems foreign to the ordinary Catholic and appears to be a semi-miraculous state hardly to be aspired to without a real danger of presumption. This is lamentable, for it tends to exclude the multitude from the hope of ever attaining the highest religious experience of this earth, namely, an intimate union with God in this life, and a foretaste of the sweetness given us when we shall behold Him face to face.

In the teachings of the early centuries of the Church and even up to the time of St. Bernard, when the influence of the pseudo-Dionysius began to be more sensibly felt, contemplation, or mysticism, as it is more commonly called today, was open to all, as long as Christian ideals were faithfully carried out in thought, word and deed, and the soul swung itself sweetly upward on the wings of loving aspirations.

To bring us back to the older conception of the mystic life, Dom Butler wrote this book on western mysticism from the time of St. Benedict to that of St. Bernard. With his own opinions on the subject he has brought before us, in a most graceful manner, the writings of the mystics themselves, their claims to an experimental perception of the presence of God in their souls and their teachings in regard to their own mystical experiences. He permits them to prove by their own words the validity of their claim.

The Doctors especially chosen for this purpose are Sts. Augustine, Gregory, and Bernard. Their teachings on mysticism, carefully gathered from all their works, are co-ordinated and made easy for our understanding. These are in many instances

of singular beauty and not only absorb the mind, but elevate the heart to heights seldom reached before. Their depth, eloquence and brilliance do not blind us to their common sense and usefulness for all. They merely show us how even the little ones of Christ here on earth may possess God in a profoundly intimate manner.

Dom Butler's work may be summed up in a very few words: it is a truly golden book, and is sure to be of much value to all thoughtful Christians, particularly to those entrusted with the care of souls.

—G. H.

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**Religion and the Study of Literature.** By Brother Leo, F. S. C. Pp. 178. Schwartz, Kirwin & Fauss, N. Y. C.

Catholic teachers will find in this work the same thought-stimulating content they may expect from Brother Leo. This latest contribution is, in the author's own words, "not a book of methods; but rather a book of principles and illustrations designed to aid teachers and students" to correlate the teaching of religion with the teaching of literature. This principle, so widely recognized yet so difficult to carry out in practice, Brother Leo particularly stresses.

If our teachers were satisfied merely to devote one hour a day to the formal teaching of religion and then to dismiss the subject till the morrow, our Catholic schools would have very little reason for existing. The formal teaching of religion, if that alone were the aim, could very well be taken care of outside of school hours. But catechetical instruction is not the chief aim of our Catholic schools; they seek above all to teach the relation of all study to permanent Divine Truth. Religion is not a subject to be rigidly pigeon-holed in one separate compartment; it ought to be given the run of the school, and its light ought to reflect upon and color every subject of the curriculum. Chemistry, Biology, Literature, History, Geology when taught in the Catholic school, should be different from their presentation in secular schools and colleges, where Revelation's reasonable censorship cannot be pointed out.

In the present work Brother Leo confines himself to the correlation of religion with the teaching of literature; but the principles he offers and many of the illustrations lend themselves readily to application in other fields.

The book is deeply stamped with the author's inimitable personality, and those who know Brother Leo, either in person or through his writings, ask no stronger commendation.

—G. L. C.

**The Mysticism of St. Francis of Assisi.** By D. H. S. Nicholson, illustrated with reproductions of etchings by Laurenzio Laurenzi. Pp. 394. \$3.50. Small, Maynard & Company, Boston.

Faith is necessary for a true knowledge of mysticism. No theory of mysticism is adequate which explains everything naturally, for the mystical union is a special grace that God gives to some few souls, by which they are enabled to feel the sensible presence of God.

The author of the present work does not give us an orthodox explanation of the mysticism of St. Francis of Assisi. His theory is a sort of vital immanence: the mystic has a direct intuition of God and is conscious of God's presence within the soul by the same consciousness that God is conscious of Himself. "When man is joined to God, that is, the Union occurs in the consciousness and is in no sense a thing outside; there is evidently no question of travelling to any place or plane, but a question of becoming something which is capable of realizing that which is eternally at hand. . . . The state of Unity will be one in which the consciousness of man will become actually the consciousness of God." The logical outcome of such a theory is Pantheism.

The guidance of a spiritual director is here confused with the guidance of the Church when speaking *ex cathedra*. The soul when working with hope of a future reward is stigmatized as mercenary, and St. Francis is said to have taught that the Minister of the sacrament of confession should give no other penance than "Go and sin no more."

—B. W.

**Jesus, the Christ, in the Light of Psychology.** By G. Stanley Hall. Pp. 740. \$7.50. Appleton & Co., New York.

It was with pleasure that we called to the attention of our readers in a recent review Papini's "Life of Christ," a living masterpiece, orthodox throughout, yet attuned to the modern mind. The reception accorded this work even in most unlikely circles, stirred our materialistic friends to action. It was inconceivable that their beloved *Intelligentzia* should be duped by such puerile, sleazy, "dark-age" conceptions. To recall them

to the "light" this book, first published in 1917, is once more set before the public.

Refutation in particular of the doctrines here embodied would be an idle task; our objections would be met with scornful pity, since we poor mortals have not attained to the plenitude of evolution; ours are but the babbling, symbolic beliefs of infancy. The traditional, external dress of the Gospel narrative is retained, but the psychological, Freudian interpretations advanced cannot be surpassed in point of weirdness. To mention a few of the fundamental solutions (if fundament there can be in this amorphous mass of fancies): The divine is not something objective; it was evolved by Mansoul out of "the ideals of the best that is in human nature." The Incarnation was but a pregnant symbol of the rehumanization and resubjectivization of God. The Virgin birth is not a fact, but a myth, a precious symbol. The Resurrection is true in the sense that the memory of Jesus was not effaced, but rose again in the minds of men. As to miracles—the condescension is stupendous—they are not a disease, but the baby talk of religious faith . . . an infantile stadium of true belief." And thus on through seven hundred pages the whole story of Christ is explained away according to the tenets of the new Psychology and Psychoanalysis.

The saddest statement of the entire study is to be found in the introduction (p. xxv): "For a score of years the themes of this volume have formed an integral . . . part of my lectures and seminary work." If it be with such food that the minds of our youths are being nourished, may God have mercy on the generations to come!

—J. L. C.

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**Ignatius Loyola.** By Henry Dwight Sedgwick. Pp. 400. \$3.00. Macmillan, N. Y. C.

Since this is the only complete life in English of St. Ignatius Loyola written by a non-Catholic who has had access to original sources, few books will be received with keener interest by both Catholic and non-Catholic alike. Mr. Sedgwick has attempted a biography of Loyola's life, and has provided a frame of contemporaneous history, in which to set the picture. The author has succeeded in accomplishing such a task, well nigh impossible from a non-Catholic viewpoint. His superior knowledge of history and his familiarity with the Spanish tongue, have enabled him to present the life of a man, who, though one of the fore-

most figures in Spanish as well as ecclesiastical history, has been sadly misinterpreted by subsequent ages.

From a critical standpoint, however, many passages throughout the book cannot be passed over in silence. In the last chapter Mr. Sedgwick gives us his concept of "Religion," which though very vague, is utterly un-Christian. "Religion," he says, "is the creation or revelation of a spacious temple, or canopy of thought, where the imagination and hope may wander free." Since Ignatius was a man of God, to whom religion was something definitely objective, it is not surprising then to note that he is found seriously lacking when rated according to the standards of Mr. Sedgwick's subjective religion. Consequently the estimates of the essay quite often veer from the truth under the pressure of these idealistic notions, although occasionally the extraordinary sanctity of Loyola exacts an approval at least on a philanthropic basis.

In several instances the book seems not to be well-balanced. For instance, when picturing very vividly the condition of the Church at the outbreak of the so-called Reformation, the author leaves the reader under the impression that such abuses were universal, and that the Church was stripped of every vestige of sanctity; when, as a matter of fact, the sixteenth century contributed many illustrious saints to her calendar. In like manner, pages concerning Luther, Calvin, Erasmus, and other reformers, seem to reveal but half-truths. Perhaps Mr. Sedgwick is acquainted with the true life of Luther, and has come in contact with the reaction of men, who have devoted many years to an intensive, as well as thorough, investigation into the life of this so-called reformer. Yet many passages would lead to a contrary conviction. Occasional statements concerning the Reformation, the Renaissance, and particularly the so-called "Sale" of Indulgences, given without the least modification or explanation, could not be styled true history. Perhaps, they are in consonance with the author's personal idea of a framework of contemporaneous history for his picture of St. Ignatius; but surely they are not just to a reader desirous of a true appreciation of the Saint's life.

We will not concern ourselves here with many assertions which might be justly called into question. However, we must not neglect to mention the presence of several excellent chapters well worth commendation. On the whole the volume is written

in an attractive style, delicate, poised, and yet reserved, giving evidence throughout of profound thought. —U. B.

**Verse of Our Day.** By Margery Gordon and M. B. King. Pp. 321. \$2.00. D. Appleton & Co., N. Y. C.

**American Poems and Others.** By J. C. Squire. Pp. 55. \$2.00. George H. Doran & Co., N. Y. C.

**New Hampshire.** By Robert Frost. Pp. 113. \$2.50. Henry Holt & Co., N. Y. C.

**Fifty Christmas Poems.** By Florence B. Hyett. Pp. 68. \$1.00. D. Appleton & Co., N. Y. C.

In spite of the opportunities offered to poetical talent in our day, the general reader is more or less inclined to depreciate its value. Whether or not this attitude is due to a misconception or to a rigid adherence to past standards, is not a question to be discussed here. But in most cases where a careful and impartial study has been made, there is a firm conviction that much of the poetry of today is deserving of attention.

It cannot be denied, however, that this modern period has its own distinctive "spirit"; and in order to point out this fact, Margery Gordon and Marie B. King have given us a new anthology, "Verse of Our Day." In this volume both literary appreciation and keen discrimination are manifest. They have confined themselves to no particular school but from one hundred and thirty-four poets they have taken selections in which this spirit seems to reveal itself. Some of the poets mentioned are G. K. Chesterton, Rupert Brooke, Francis Thompson, Sara Teasdale, Theodosia Garrison, Joyce Kilmer, Amy Lowell, Alice Meynell, John Masefield, and Richard LeGallienne. It is a splendid work, giving added interest to the study of the poetry of our time, and meriting the highest commendation.

A well-known writer of the present day has said, "Nobody can possibly guess what J. C. Squire's next poem will be like." This statement is all the more striking as we read his "American Poems and Others." They have a charm which holds us to the end. The vivid imagery and vigor of thought displayed in this volume truly prove the abilities of this gifted poet. There is every reason for believing that it will be appreciated and enjoyed by his American readers.

Drawing his illustrations from "whole cloth," Robert Frost has demonstrated beyond the shadow of a doubt that critics have not understood New Hampshire. Where they saw little to

admire, he finds beauty in everything. Running throughout these poems is a vein of whimsicality, humor, and quaintness that is rarely matched. His manner of describing people, trees, birds and flowers entitles him to a place as one of the foremost poets of our time. The "Notes and Grace Notes," as a whole, add a delicate touch to the entire work.

It was a happy thought which prompted Florence B. Hyett to gather these "Fifty Christmas Poems." Because of their simplicity in detail every child will enjoy them. Even elders may find in them much to reflect on—so faithfully do they reveal the spiritual significance of this blessed season. —C. B. M.

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### DIGEST OF RECENT BOOKS

*RELIGION, PHILOSOPHY, EDUCATION:* **Religio Religiosi** is not the charming volume of reminiscences to be expected when so great a writer as Cardinal Gasquet glances backward upon half a century of life spent in the "Via Vitae" of St. Benedict, but it lays bare, in the unmistakable way of the historian, the severe, simple philosophy of the religious life; the "striving for union with God." It is a complete hand-book of the religious state and will, we believe, be much more useful to religious than to lay people. (Kenedy, \$1.35). Father Williams, S. J., after many years of retreat work, publishes a little volume called **Keep the Gate**. The title is taken from an incident of the Jamaica earthquake, and is illustrative of the tenor of the book. The author is often extremely unfortunate in the illustration of his points. At other times he is striking and very apt. (Benziger, \$1.50). Father Vuillermet, a French Dominican, gives some timely information about amusements and their relation to Christian morality in **Les Divertissements et La Conscience Chretienne**. Father Vuillermet is one of the most popular authors and orators of the day in France. (Lethiel-leux, Paris. 7 fr.) **La Contemplation Chretienne**, by Dom S. Louismet, O. S. B., also in French, is another work that we gladly recommend to our readers. It is a very plain and intelligible treatise on Christian contemplation in its broad and traditional sense. He describes contemplation in all its forms, from corporal and vocal prayer to the sublime states of mystical union with God. Unlike many modern writers on this subject, he has not loaded it with methods and divisions, but gives a very clear and simple exposition of the nature of contemplation. The book is written for all Christians, since contemplation is for all without exception. (Tequi, Paris. 7 fr. 50).

With the publication of the commentary on **St. John**, Madame Cecilia's well-known Catholic Scripture Manuals near completion. The present volume follows the plan of the compiler's similar works on the Synoptists. Thus, the first part is devoted to data, brief and logical in arrangement, offering ready aid to all who seek a better understanding of the Fourth Gospel. Sane, copious annotations, together with the text compose the second part. These justify the statement made in the preface that the Manuals "have also been found useful helps to meditation." This volume is to be followed by "The Credentials of St. John's Gospel," rightly deemed necessary today, when, outside the Catholic Church, scant historic

value is accorded the Johannine narrative. (Benziger, \$3.75). **Man**, by Fr. Scott, S. J., is full of the fundamental, eternal truths. It demonstrates the true position of the creature in relation to the Creator, the end toward which we tend, and the means we are to use to attain that end. The author always succeeds in impressing forcefully his point, but the style is somewhat choppy and not always fluent. (Macmillan, \$1.50). In **Christ or Mars?** Will Irwin seeks to raise again the often answered question of whether or not Christianity has failed. He makes distinction between the religion, as he puts it, of Christ, and that of the "Church purporting to interpret to our world His intentions," and falls into the grave inconsistency of confusing the things that are Caesar's and those that are God's. He has no grounds for the statement that the "Church" is in hiding along with sinners and publicans. His designation "Church" is very indefinite, and he forgets that we cannot lay at the door of Christianity the blame for actions that come from men who call themselves Christians but act as pagans. (Appleton, \$1.50). **Cours D'Instructions Dominicales** is a complete explanation of Catholic doctrine. Its simple and concise style is sure to appeal to all, and surely pastors and preachers will find it helpful. Fr. Turcan's three volumes will be of great interest to the clergy who read French. (Tequi, 18 fr.) Another French publication is the **Retraite des Serviteurs de Marie**, by Pere Soulier, O. S. M. This retreat manual is well adapted to meditation. It touches upon the essentials of Christian life and is rich in scriptural allusions. (Tequi, 6 fr.) The martyred Franciscan, Blessed Ramon Lull, is called to mind in the English translation of the **Book of the Lover and the Beloved**. This is a collection of warm and eloquent colloquies between Christ and the Soul, and might be styled a diary of the mystical intimacies of an apostolic friar with the Divine Master for whom he spends himself in the quest of souls. Although some of this friar's teachings were condemned as rationalistic mysticism, this little book, with the possible exception of one or two negligible subtleties, seems to be free of any such taint. As a translation it merits praise for its purity of diction. (Macmillan, \$1.25).

The **Twenty Four Fundamental Theses** of Official Catholic Philosophy, by Fr. Peter Lumberras, O. P., S. T. Lr., Ph. D., Professor of Philosophy at Notre Dame, is a pamphlet that will interest and help students and professors in our Catholic colleges and seminaries. Fr. Lumberras shows that the philosophy of St. Thomas is the official philosophy of the Church, and he explains briefly, in English, each of the twenty-four theses approved by the Sacred Congregation of Studies as containing the genuine teaching of the Angelic Doctor. (University Press, Notre Dame, \$0.20). Fr. Hugon, the noted French Dominican, has just published in French an exposition of these same theses, in his **Les Vingt-Quatre Theses Thomistes**. Here one finds the Scholastic method in all its beauty, completeness, and unescapable logic, expressed in the personal style of Pere Hugon. Quotations from the Fathers and from the Scriptures clarify and vivify the proofs. Technical language has been avoided. (Tequi, 7 fr.) From Somerset, Ohio, Fr. Byrnes, O. P., sends a pamphlet that will be welcomed by all who are interested in the instruction of converts. **How to Say the Rosary** is a complete exposition of the fifteen mysteries, with illustrations and meditations thereon. To the ordinary method of beginning this prayer, is added that in use in Dominican churches. (Rosary Press, or any Catholic dealer, \$0.10). Should any one attempt to count all the so-called philosophies of life that have appeared in the last few years, he would most certainly grow weary and give up in despair. However, Mr. Alfred W. Martin, in his latest work, **A Philosophy of Life**, rather outstrips the gen-



eral run of such philosophers, for he is by no means a shallow or superficial thinker, and we must, in this day and age, congratulate him for giving life a spiritual significance, and allotting a place for the supernatural. We can learn many things from this little book, but it is certainly an exemplification of the fact that the human reason unaided by the light of divine revelation, will never get very far in the correct solution of the deeper problems of life. (Appleton, \$1.00).

*HISTORY, BIOGRAPHY:* **Charles De Foucauld**, Hermit and Explorer, by Rene Bazin, is an interesting account of a remarkable man. Born in the Faith, he lost it when bereft of the good influences of his home. As a French soldier in Morocco, he studied its peoples and made observations which proved to be invaluable to France. The mercy of God was at work in this distressed soul, and the religion of the pagans had impressed him. He found God, and, desiring a more perfect life, entered La Trappe. This was not severe enough for him, and, after some time spent in the Holy Land, he returned to Morocco to live as a solitary. There he was ordained priest and lived venerated by all until in December, 1916, he fell a victim to the hatred of the enemies of the Faith. (Benziger, \$4.00). In the **National Pastorals of the American Hierarchy, 1792-1919**, Rev. Peter Guilday, Ph. D., of the Catholic University, has made another notable contribution to American Church History. These pastorals are the official messages of the Hierarchy of the country to the clergy and laity under their charge. They form a key to the inner life of the Church in the United States, since all but one of them were issued as the result of the conciliar assemblies of American Bishops. The keen vision of the problems and difficulties confronting Catholics in this country, and the fatherly solicitude of the Bishops for their flocks, are reflected in these letters. The Pastorals of 1884 and 1919 will, naturally, be of greater interest to the present day reader since they deal with problems of our own time, but the others also have their application to the national Catholic life of today. Dr. Guilday has performed a valuable service in collecting these documents for there was danger that some of the earlier might have otherwise been lost to posterity. (N. C. W. C. \$2.50). War is the topic chosen by Father B. J. Murdoch in **The Red Vineyard**. He speaks as a Catholic chaplain in the Canadian service, and in a pleasant style is interesting. His story has been arranged attractively into 100 short but absorbing chapters. Excellent binding and workmanship make it a volume to grace any library. (Torch Press, Cedar Rapids, \$2.00). Dom Hebrard, a Benedictine of Liguge, has just published a psychological study of his Order's founder and his work in **Saint Benoit**, a treatise on the life of the Saint and on the spirit of his rule. It abounds with interesting anecdotes of the holy Benedict. (Tequi, 6 fr.)

*LITERATURE, FICTION:* Those who have enjoyed the previous writings of Gilbert K. Chesterton will not be disappointed in **Fancies vs. Fads**. In this collection of varied topics, he attempts to show that "all the nonsense of the world takes on something of the wild interest of wonderland," and he has accomplished his self-appointed task in a satisfactory manner. True to himself in every detail, he considers diverse subjects, points out absurdities, adds a good amount of humor. Underlying all is the principle of common sense, of avoiding extremes. By his ingenious presentation the subjects chosen become thought-provoking and worthy of reflection. (Dodd, Mead. \$2.00). **Le Dix Huitieme Siecle** of Fr. Alexander Brou, gives us the fruits of a careful study of that turbulent period of French letters. This volume covers the time from the death of Louis XIV to the appearance of the Encyclopedia, treating of Free-Thought, the phi-

losophy of the day, the novel, the drama, the comedy, tragedy, etc. The chapters on the Regency and on the early days of Voltaire and Montesquieu, are especially noteworthy, but most valuable of all is the introductory chapter on the general character of French literature during the eighteenth century. The author displays a thorough knowledge of the literature and the literary men of the period and judges them all by sound principles, thus furnishing a handy and reliable guide to the study of French letters. (Tequi, 7 fr. 50). One who reads the latest book of Anzia Yeziarska, **Children of Loneliness**, will never again look with disdain and contempt upon the poor immigrant stooping over the factory bench or plodding along our streets. Miss Yeziarska tears away the squalor, the dirt, and rags, and shows us human hearts beneath the rough vesture of poverty—hearts that love and hope and sorrow in the crowded tenements. She has herself come up from among them, fighting step by step against almost insuperable barriers of prejudice, until from a "dumb thing with nothing but hunger and desire," today she stands at the topmost point of her profession. The tenement is not forgotten, the dark basement room, the cold, the starvation of soul and body. It is her task to focus the light of public understanding upon the lives of these peoples "wandering between worlds at once too old and too new to live in." The narrative is always gripping, and vibrant with the personal sufferings of the author. It is steeped in the age-old tragedy of her wandering race. (Funk & Wagnalls, \$2.00).

Lucille Borden can no longer be thought of in any but terms of genius. She is what we have long been awaiting in the ranks of Catholic novelists. At once holding the attention with a well-constructed, artistic narrative, she combats effectively the deadly incubus of modern error. **The Candlestick Maker** deals with the spread of Birth Control propaganda, and its resulting trail of desolation. Against a background of pride and selfish "common sense" in Hildegard Creighton, is set the whole-hearted generosity and hopes of the children-loving Michael, her husband, a dreamer and worker, the candlestick maker. How, through the perversity of this proud woman, loneliness broods over the Creighton home, and evil shadows the lives of others, Mrs. Borden has skilfully wrought into an interesting story. She knows how to vary her scene and action very cleverly and to keep sounding the dominant note of her theme. It is a book that will make a welcome and worthy Christmas present. (Macmillan, \$2.25). In **Viola Hudson**, by Isabelle Clarke, we have the story of a hasty marriage and long, long leisure for repentance. The heroine, left an orphan at an early age, is brought up in surroundings indifferent if not inimical to her Faith, so it is not surprising that when love comes into her life, and she is forced to choose between the two, that love wins the day. Duped, and tricked into a sham marriage, when the veil is torn away she finds herself a woman with a clouded reputation. If she will consent to rear her expected child in the Protestant religion, her pretended husband will consent to marry her and legitimize it. As it often happens, however, trouble has been the wedge to open her heart to grace, and she is no longer the weak creature of former days. She chooses a life of contempt and sorrow rather than again deny her Faith. The author has managed to bring the conventional happy ending to the plot in a way not at all obvious or obnoxious. (Benziger, \$2.00).

**The Cable**, by Marion Ames Taggart, is another problem novel but this time the problem is answered in the right way. Cicely Adair, an efficient business woman and indifferent Catholic faces the choice between her love for a divorced man and her Faith. It is a bitter struggle, but she emerges triumphant to find true happiness and a better

understanding of her religion. Miss Taggart's usual charm and energy embellish the story. (Benziger, \$2.00). Matrimony is always an absorbing topic for our Catholic novelist and Father Scott, S. J., has just written a novel, **For Better, For Worse**, portraying some of the difficulties and trials of a young married couple. The purpose of the book is to show in a simple and readable way, the relationship between the Church and her children, and to point out how peace and happiness will come to the individual and to the family in proportion as religious duties are observed. In places interest is somewhat wanting but as a whole the story of Jerry and Felice is pleasantly and instructively told. (Benziger, \$1.75).

Convinced that a good short story deserves a more permanent setting than that afforded by the newspaper or magazine, Ernest Rhys and C. A. Dawson Scott have collected **31 Stories by Thirty and One Authors**, in which they have included some of the very best appearing in the last decade. The stories have been chosen with the hope of interesting the reader, both as delightful tales and as representative pieces of the fictional art. Such names as Arnold Bennet, G. K. Chesterton, John Galsworthy, and Israel Zangwill, grace the list of authors. They seem to have been caught in their most charming moods. For the lover of good short stories—and who does not come under this classification?—here is a real treat that will cheer the coming winter evenings when a good book will prove an excellent companion. (Appleton, \$2.50). Gene Stratton Porter gives us a vivid description of life in a little Indiana town, in **The White Flag**, a thrilling narrative of greed, passion, and deceit, opposed to simplicity and straightforwardness of soul, much after the fashion of the old-time melodrama. The Senior and Junior Morehouse rush down the Broadway of crime, leaving in their wake broken hearts of trusting women and blighted fortunes of their innocent victims. The charmingly feminine character of Mahala is somewhat reminiscent of "Her Father's Daughter." (Doubleday, Page, \$2.00).

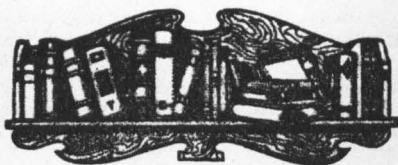
**Fortune's Fool**, by Rafael Sabatini, goes back to the times of Charles II and the great plague in London for its plot. It is cleverly written and interesting throughout, although Fortune treats the hero, Colonel Holles, ill too consistently to be true to life. Dealing with the corrupt court of Charles, the author does so in a way not at all suggestive or morbid. (Houghton, Mifflin, \$2.00). In the **Fires of Ambition**, by George Gibbs, we have a strange heroine, whom we like and dislike, admire and pity. She sacrifices all, stifles every noble impulse in her insatiate ambition for social position and power. The attainment of her desire is rapid, but she quickly tastes the bitter dregs at the bottom of the cup. The world in dust and ashes about her, she must seek in other ways for happiness and peace. The author has brought his heroine to find this in a creed in which no man has ever yet found true peace—in a stoical and disillusioned outlook upon life. (Appleton, \$2.00). Venice, moonlight, silver-tipped gondolas, love, mystery—all these has Louise Gerard wrought into a **Wreath of Stars**, yet, strangely enough with no cloying admixture of sentimentalism. It is the story of a British officer held prisoner in the Italian city and finally released through the persevering courage of an English woman whom he at length makes his bride. (Macaulay, \$1.90). The very least that can be said about **Nowhere Else in the World** is that it is unusual in style and manner of presentation. It is an account of the critical years of a young litterateur, touches life at all points, is artistically done, and has every claim to be considered genuine literature. J. W. Hudson, the author, deals with some concrete problems of twentieth century education, and we think the work will be read with a personal interest by the younger element

of the academic world. (Appleton, \$2.00). Brand Whitlock, in **J. Hardin & Son**, has done much to dispel the erroneous idea that American ideals are described in the popular novel "Main Street." In his work Mr. Whitlock gives us the other, and what we consider the more truthful, picture of Main street: the Main street that very seriously and quietly goes about its daily routine; that has made America what it is, and in which the hope for the future lies. Here, under the influence of religion and respect for law and order, is the true backbone of the nation. At the same time the author does not hesitate to show to what extent the followers of Prohibition went in their eagerness to attain their end. Under the guise of Religion, they found an ally that proved to be one of their greatest assets. Mr. Whitlock has also aimed a telling blow at the greatest evil afflicting the American of today, divorce. The characters are American to the core. Their introduction is not forced, for we meet them naturally and in expected places. (Appleton, \$2.00).

**Ashes of Vengeance**, a novel by H. B. Somerville, portrays the passions of love, jealousy, and vengeance in a gripping narrative which describes the termination of the feudal hostilities of two powerful families of France. The description of St. Bartholomew's Day, attributing barbaric slaughter to the Catholic peasants, is indeed exaggerated and biased, but the novel is thoroughly enjoyable. At times the author rivals the very Scott himself by his power of holding one in breathless suspense. (McBride, \$2.00). Under the title **The Cloud that Lifted** there comes a very creditable translation of two of Maurice Maeterlinck's recent plays, "The Cloud that Lifted," and "The Power of the Dead." The first has a setting in Finland of the present time, crushed under a reign of terrorism. The "cloud" is one of suspicion, attaching to the sweetheart of a young girl whose father has been mysteriously assassinated. The scene of the other is Flanders, and it also centers around a death. In neither of these plays do we find anything novel as to plot. The peculiar technique and charm of Maeterlinck, as forceful as in his earlier and less innocent works, helps to counterbalance the lack of originality. (Century, \$2.00). If there were room here one would like to quote liberally from **The Hawkeye**, a recent novel by Herbert Quick, for it is full of good things that will bear frequent repetition. It is the story of a pioneer romance, abounding with the real life, real men and women, that have gone to the building of the nation. (Bobbs-Merrill, \$2.00). If "variety is the spice of life," then to A. S. M. Hutchinson we are debtors for a new volume replete with wholesome intellectual seasoning. Widely divergent in theme, each of his **8th Wonder and Other Stories** puts over points worthy of praise. Hutchinson is well known to his readers for his ability to clothe the old, old story of love in new and alluring dress; but besides this, these eight stories reveal his grasp of character analysis and the slant of his pen touching the humorous side of our nature. Motherhood is Hutchinson's "Eighth Wonder"; the first, as he would fain call it. It takes us from romance and marriage into a home which is a home because God has sent into it a wondrous living object on whom the parents can lavish their mutual love. (Little, Brown, \$2.00).

In his **Captures** John Galsworthy not only captures but captivates one, and the hope is that he will follow up this collection of short stories with more of the same type. What we most admire is that we always find at the end of the story the unexpected, coming as a pleasant surprise, and generally inculcating some moral lesson applicable to the times. (Scribner's, \$2.00). Father Finn, S. J., never gives us anything but a treat, and in his **Lord Bountiful** he introduces a new character, the "Lord

Bountiful" of the book, who is the answer of the "Little Flower" to the prayers of a distressed family. What happens throughout the course of the plot makes very good reading for the boys and girls and for the older folk, too. (Benziger, \$1.00). In **American Nights Entertainment**, by Grant Overton, the devotee of modern letters will find a great deal of helpful and interesting matter. Authors and books are studied for the benefit of the book-loving public. Four publishers have united in the production of the work. (Appleton, Doran, Doubleday, Scribner, \$0.50).



### SOME RECENT PUBLICATIONS

- Boy Scout's Year Book**, edited by F. K. Matthews: Outdoor lore, sports, and stories for the boys. (Appleton, \$2.50).
- Eugenics**, Valere Fallon, S. J. An original effort in a field not over-explored from the Catholic viewpoint. (Benziger Bros, \$0.40).
- In the Wilds of the Canyon**: Fr. Spalding adds a stirring juvenile to the youngsters' library. (Benziger).
- Flowers of the Sanctuary**, by Rev. F. A. Reuter: Brief lives of the Saints with practical applications, chronologically arranged. (Pustet, \$1.25).
- Therese de L'Enfant Jesu**, in French, by the Abbe Giloteaux: Not a biography but a study of the virtues that have caused the "Little Flower" to be inscribed among the Beati. (Tequi, Paris. 5 fr.)
- Behind the Bronze Door**, by Wm. LeQueux: For those who like detective stories. (Macaulay, \$1.75).
- Talks to Boys**. J. P. Conroy, S. J. Father Conroy says a few words to boys who are climbing "Fool's Hill." (Benziger, \$0.25).
- A Jesu-Hostie par Marie**. Abbe Lanier: The intimate connection of the Blessed Virgin with the Eucharist. A short devotional treatise in French. (Tequi, 1 fr.)
- Les Faits de Lourdes**, by Dr. Marchand: Personal experiences of a French physician among the wonders of Lourdes. (Tequi, 4 fr.)
- Church Latin for Beginners**. J. E. Lowe, M. A.: A very practical book for self-education in the language of the Church. (Benziger, \$2.35).
- Everybody's Prayer Book**. Rev. C. J. Holland: A decided innovation in prayer-books that is sure to please. (Blase-Benziger, \$1.25).
- Jeunesse et Purete**, Abbe Morice: Retreat conferences for youths. (Tequi, 3 fr. 50).
- Les Voies de Dieu**, H. Mink-Jullien: How a suffering soul was led out of the darkness into the light of Faith. (Tequi, 3 fr.)
- La Tres Sainte Vierge**, P. Millot: Practical considerations on devotion and love for the Mother of God. (Tequi, 5 fr.)
- The Church Year**, H. Steiglitz: Liturgical talks to children, following the new psychological method. Helpful to pastors and teachers. (Macmillan, \$1.75).
- Webster's New International Dictionary**: The latest authentic unabridged edition of this old standard of pronunciation. (Merriam, \$16.00).
- Living with God**, Rev. R. Plus, S. J. A treasure of timely thoughts and maxims, furnishing the seed of beneficial self-recollection. (Benziger, \$1.00).
- Haut Les Coeurs**, J. Leday: An animated discussion of Faith between a Free-Thinker and a Catholic. (Tequi, 1 fr.)
- Retraite de Jeunes Gens**, by J. Millot, Vicar-General of Versailles: A retreat given to the young men of his diocese, of which the virtue of purity forms the principal theme. (Tequi, 7 fr. 50).
- Smoke of the 45**, H. S. Drago: Another story of the West by the author of Suzanne. (Macaulay, \$1.75).
- Catholic Home Annual**: Benziger Brothers' yearly calendar, full of interesting stories and illustrations. (Benziger, \$0.25).
- Mussolini**, G. M. Godden: A clear and brief exposition of a man and a party seemingly destined to revolutionize the earth. (Kenedy, \$2.00).
- Les Disciplines du Relevement National**, by Msgr. Tissier: A Catholic Bishop writing on principles of social reconstruction under the influence of Christianity. (Tequi, 5 fr.)

- La Mere et Ses Enfants**, also by Bishop Tissier: Treating of the vital and intimate obligations of motherhood and the rearing of children. (Tequi, 3 fr.)
- The Wonder Days**: Another of Marion Ames Taggart's beautifully illustrated booklets for the children. (Benziger, \$0.35).
- La Conquete des Ames**, by Pierre Xavier Nicolay: Pastoral psychology and practice, with a special application to the young. (Tequi, 7 fr. 50).
- The Spirit of the Leader**, by Wm. Heyliger: A story of an American High School and what a hustler can accomplish; clean, wholesome, and true to life. (Appleton, \$1.75).
- Au Seuil de la Vie**, Abbe Delerue: On the Threshold of Life, a work of incomparable value to Catholic girls on the threshold of life. Reflections on their duties to themselves, their Church, and to their God. (Tequi, 2 vol. 10 fr.)
- La Famille et L'Amitie au Ceil**, by Louis Rouzic: A collection of texts from the Scriptures, the Fathers, etc., treating of the love or friendship existing between the citizens of the heavenly country. (Tequi, 3 fr. 50).
- Marvels of the Blessed Sacrament**, by Rev. J. McDonnell, S. J. A little book for first-communicants. (Benziger, \$0.60).
- Story of Our Lord**, by Katharine Tynan: The life of Our Lord written for the little ones and sure to please them, both by its beautiful story and by its pretty pictures. It will make any child happy to find this book in its Christmas stocking. (Benziger, \$1.50).
- Saint Anthony's Calendar**, published by the Franciscan Fathers of the Holy Name Province. Stories, Poems, and interesting information, contained in this 1924 number. (Franciscana Press, St. Bonaventure, N. Y. \$0.25).
- Jesus In Me**, a translation of Fr. Villefranche's prayer-book for boys and girls of 15 and 16 years. A book that will instill devotion and love for the Blessed Sacrament in the hearts of their elders as well. (Benziger, \$1.00).
- God and Caesar**, and **The Christ Child**, two pamphlets by Rev. Joseph Husslein, S. J. The first deals with some phases of present day bigotry, and the second, appropriately to the Christmas season, with devotion to the Infant Jesus. (America, 10c. each, or \$7.00 per 100).
- De Dubio Methodico**, by Fr. Lumbreras, O. P. An historico-critical dissertation on the origin, nature, and consequences of the teachings of Descartes. (University Press, Notre Dame).

