



The Calvert Series: Hilaire Belloc, Editor.

The Catholic Church and History. By Hilaire Belloc. Pp. 109.

The Catholic Church and Conversion. By Gilbert K. Chesterton. Pp. 115.

The Catholic Church and The Appeal to Reason. By Leo Ward. Pp. 115.

The Catholic Church and Philosophy. By Fr. Vincent McNabb, O. P. Pp. xviii—124.

The Catholic Church and Its Reactions With Science. By Sir Bertram C. A. Windle. Pp. 152. New York: The Macmillan Company, each \$1.00.

Civilization is rapidly drawing near to the cross-roads where it must again choose between pagan hedonism and Christianity. Hilaire Belloc is keenly aware of this status in modern thought and life and ventured the opinion some time ago that the world was seeking just such a series of books as these. "The time is ripe because of the controversy between Catholic truth and its opponents which has reached today, certainly in England . . . and . . . in the United States, a position comparable to that in the Mediterranean world a century before the conversion of that world." The world is in a receptive mood for the answers to the great questions which mankind has always been driven to put to itself. And many are anxious for a clear-cut statement of Catholic doctrine on these points. It is the purpose of this series to give just this. The above-mentioned books but clear the ground of many false notions that have held sway with many non-Catholics; other volumes are to follow if there is sufficient demand for them.

Mr. Belloc in his books makes no attempt at positive apologetics in favor of the claims of the Church, rather he refutes the evidence supposedly drawn from history in opposition to her claims, and in so doing lays down general positive principles which may guide the sincere inquirer in his investigation of other points that may disturb him.

Mr. Chesterton has never been more brilliant or lucid. His problem is conversion, the state of the non-Catholic mind before, during and after the process. His analysis of the interest and fascination which the Church has always held and his penetrating examination of the psychology of conversion team with that personal element of one who has experienced the joy and happiness that follow upon having found his way into the Fold.

Mr. Ward's *The Catholic Church and the Appeal to Reason* lays low the fallacy of modern thoughts, that human reason is unable to rationally find its way to God and truth. He shows clearly that the "Church has always insisted on the appeal to Reason as the only secure basis for consistency and the only means of saving religion from the endless vagaries of human imaginations and inclinations." What a relief and contrast to the mere "feeling," "blind faith" and "instinct" upon which the world is being fed today.

Scholastic philosophy may be considered by some as dry, too speculative, perhaps even redolent of the mustiness of a bygone age. If such will but read the able and scholarly treatment of this subject by the Dominican scholar, Father Vincent McNabb, O. P., they will receive a most delightful surprise. A professor and follower of St. Thomas for thirty-two years, he is able to give one a perspective of *The Catholic Church and Philosophy*. He places it in its historical setting, indicates some of its principles for the solution of present-day problems, the lessons that we may well learn from the history of philosophy during the last five centuries, and lastly, makes clear the attitude of the Church, the true spouse of all philosophy worthy of that name, throughout her existence.

The author of *The Catholic Church and its Reactions with Science* needs no introduction to our readers. Sir Bertram Windle has outdone himself in this his latest effort. It would be impossible to give in a work of this nature and size a more masterly and better synthesized treatise on the question of the Church and science and the alleged conflict between Church and Science than he has given.

The Calvert Series has started out very well. The editor and his collaborators are to be congratulated on their undertaking, the publishers on the format which they have given the series. It is to be hoped, however, that the typographical errors, which unfortunately are not infrequent, will be eliminated in future reprints. J. B.

Sur les pas de Saint Dominique en France. By Rev. M. D. Constant, O. P. Pp. 318. Paris, France: Librairie Dominicaine. 13 fr.

Prepared as a humble tribute to St. Dominic on the occasion of the seventh centenary of his death, these pages are now set forth in book form. The work is not merely a history of St. Dominic's years in France; it is more, for in it the author interprets the affection, still ardent and strong after seven centuries, of the French people for this Spanish apostle to the Land of Clovis. And so, while rigidly historical, it contains many pure legends set forth for their moral value.

For, after all, the very fact that so many local legends exist in which Dominic is hailed as having founded the local convent or preached and worked miracles, or having received the Rosary in these parts, is proof of the love and veneration of the people for him. Father Constant has made a life study of his spiritual Father, and the extensive bibliography, separated according to chapters, is ample testimony of the thoroughness with which he has sought information. History, monuments, tradition and legends are each considered. The book is divided into Northern, Central and Southern France, and under each the towns are brought forth according to dioceses. In the recital many familiar scenes live again vividly: Carcassonne, Fanjeaux, Toulouse, Montreal, Prouille and others. But in addition, many towns unfamiliar are rich with incidents of Dominic's labors. The work is a distinct addition to Dominican literature and must have a strong appeal to French Catholics and to all lovers of things Dominican. At the same time it will be of much use and service to students of Dominican, as well as French, religious history. L. M. C.

History of Mediaeval Philosophy. By Maurice de Wulf, Ph. D., Litt. D., LL. D. Translated by Ernest C. Messenger, Ph. D. New English Edition in Two Volumes. Vol. I—From the Beginnings to Albert the Great; Vol. II—From St. Thomas Aquinas to the End of the Sixteenth Century. Pp. xvi-416 and xii-336. New York: Longmans, Green & Company. \$9.50.

"*Nova et vetera.*" True to the spirit of his school, Dr. de Wulf has carried the motto of Neo-Scholastic Louvain over into the character of his own writings. An instance in point is the way in which he has repeatedly augmented his *History of Mediaeval Philosophy* with the latest contributions of current historical and philosophical research—contributions which have been far from slight, as the constant expansion of the *Histoire* in its five French and two English editions has evidenced. Originally a single volume, the latest edition appears, as the heading above indicates, in two bulky tomes.

The general character and excellence of the work need no declaration here; this history is today the standard work in its field in both French and English-speaking countries. But a few special characteristics of the new edition may be noted. The addition of new material has not been limited to those several places where entirely new chapters have been inserted, but has been spread quite generally over the whole work. Much that was merely skeletonized in the earlier editions now receives more adequate treatment. The intellectual and educational backgrounds of each period have been more

thoroughly indicated, and the correlation with contemporaneous civilization has been more expansively attempted. Constant discoveries are incalculably broadening our knowledge of many of the lesser figures of the mediaeval period and a large amount of this material has been incorporated.

Professor de Wulf has adhered unswervingly to his definition of Scholastic Philosophy in terms of doctrinal content. He distinguishes clearly between Mediaeval, Scholastic, and Thomistic Philosophy. Formerly he presented his synthesis of Scholastic Philosophy in the section devoted to St. Thomas Aquinas, selecting the Angelic Doctor as the typical scholastic. Now he chooses to present his general synthesis of Scholastic Philosophy—that is to say, that group of doctrines common to all the leading scholastics and constituting the *sententia communis*—in a special chapter prefatory to the entire Golden Period. In considering St. Thomas himself, Dr. de Wulf now seeks to single out the new and differentiating elements which divide Thomism from the philosophies of his immediate predecessors and contemporaries. This throws into higher relief the distinctive character of Thomistic Scholasticism—that philosophy so pithily represented in the *Twenty-four Fundamental Theses*.

The author has availed himself of the very best in present day scholarship, notably of the findings of Mandonnet, Gilson, Grabmann, Baeumker, Ehrle, Pelzer, and numerous others, not neglecting such American scholars as Haskins of Harvard, and Paetow of California. The bibliographies show notable augmentation, especially in the line of English works.

P. A. S.

The Cambridge Medieval History, Vol. V. *Contest of Empire and Papacy*. Planned by J. B. Bury, edited by J. R. Tanner, C. W. Previte-Orton, and Z. N. Brooke. Pp. xliv-1005. New York: The Macmillan Co.

This fifth volume of the well-known *Cambridge Medieval History* covers the period 1000-1200, or, roughly speaking, from the beginning of the Hildebrandine reform in Church discipline to the accession of Innocent III. The sub-title but partially indicates the scope of the contents, for in addition to the contest between the Popes and the German Emperors of the Holy Roman Empire, there are also treated the struggle over Investitures in England under William the Conqueror, Henry I and Henry II, and in France under Louis VI and Louis VII; the story of the Norman kingdom in Sicily, the Muslim power in the East and the Crusades; the communal movement in France and Italy; the rise of the Monastic Orders, medieval schools, the development of Roman and Canon Law; and the progress of

philosophical studies. Much of the struggle between the Empire and Papacy was of a political nature as well as religious, and the older style of political narrative dominates throughout the work, with but little direct reference to social conditions of the times. Seventeen authors, British, French, and Italian, contribute the twenty-three chapters.

The work is written in the detached spirit of genuine scholarship, with an accurate and commendable appreciation of the all-important place occupied by the Church in the life of the period. The narrative is abundantly detailed, yet not too wearily so for the general reader. What is perhaps most valuable for the student is the extensive and well-classified bibliography given for each chapter and covering 105 pages in all. A very complete index, together with nine carefully-drawn maps and a chronological table of the period covered still further enhance the value of the work either for reference or for the general reader.

A. T. E.

What is Faith—and Other Essays. By the Reverend Charles J. Callan, O.P. Pp. viii-146. New York: The Devin-Adair Company.

The insistent requests of many students and professors have prevailed upon Father Callan to republish five essays which he wrote for the *Catholic University Bulletin* and the *Irish Quarterly Review* during the years from 1909 to 1914. These five: two on faith, one on miracles, one on the soul's immortality, and one an examination of Kant's fundamental principles, penetrate the innermost recesses of theological science and philosophical speculation. The serious student, the thinker, will take deep satisfaction in their richness of thought and accuracy of expression. The superficial reader, however, will find little that could be termed "light reading." These essays are heavy, in the sense that solid gold is heavy—precious matter of exceptional gravity. Father Callan achieves the clearness, the directness, the simplicity, and the profundity of his great master, St. Thomas Aquinas.

P. A. S.

The Open Door. By S. Burrows. Pp. 506. New York: Benziger Brothers.

The author, a convert, has set before himself the avowed task of giving to others a line of thought that is the result of his own study and application, and by means of which he was enabled to disentangle himself from the sophistries of modern thought in his journey to the Catholic Church. Mr. Burrows has written for people who read much, who are thoughtful, and who are interested in subjects philosophical and theological as they appear in the leading reviews. For this

reason he has avoided technical terms of philosophy and theology in so far as possible. However this does not mean that he has not covered his subject thoroughly. On the contrary he has taken it for granted that the inquirer is sincere and very much in earnest. For such an inquirer has he written his comprehensive treatise.

The work is fourfold: in Part I he discusses the validity of our reason, going on to a consideration of the nature of man, his soul and his relation to God. Part II is a study of comparative religion which confirms the conclusions of Part I. Part III treats of the motives of credibility, and in Part IV the inquirer is lead into the Church. Such an analysis necessarily fails to reveal the riches of this work, especially such splendid chapters as those that deal with the Fall and Redemption of Man, and Conversion or the Act of Faith. Throughout the author gives references to books which he has used; this wealth of references will be of inestimable value to many a seeker after truth, or to a Catholic, who wishes to follow up an indicated line of thought. The volume is good, solid reading. In every chapter the outstanding objections against that particular question are given and answered fairly and squarely.

Meeting the inroads of aggressive scepticism as it does, this book should be of interest to any thoughtful mind, whether it be the intelligent inquirer or the educated laity.

J. B.

The Suicide Problem in the United States. By Rev. A. D. Frenay, O. P., Ph. D. Boston: The Gorham Press. \$2.00.

This work is a pioneer, but with none of the crudeness of the pioneer about it, judging from a close reading of its proof sheets. Though it is the first in the field, it has covered its ground most thoroughly. Among the chapters we find such titles as "History of The Suicide Rate," "International Suicide Rate," "Suicide in The United States," "Biological and Social Aspects," "Occupational Aspects," "Economic Aspects," "National and Racial Aspects," "Religious Aspects"—all of which gives us some idea of the marvellous scope of the book. It is still in the press but will be given to the public sometime within the next month.

The work is made up of much hitherto unpublished material and has confined itself strictly to the statistical field. No conclusions are drawn from the facts, no theory is insinuated, the author has no pet ideas to win favor for. It is a scientific work done in a purely scientific way. Because of its thoroughness it will be of immense value, among others, to the doctor, sociologist, economist, philosopher and

priest. There are two extremely valuable appendices attached and of course a thorough bibliography. The introduction takes us over the sociological field and over the sources and method of approach of the suicide question.

R. W. F.

The Spiritual Works of Abbot Blossius. Vol. V. *The Sanctuary of the Faithful Soul.* Part II. Revised and Edited by Bernard Delany, O. P. Pp. xxiv-136. Vol. VI. *The Paradise of the Faithful Soul.* Part I. Revised and Edited by the Same. Pp. xxv-143. New York: Benziger Brothers. Each \$1.25.

Readers who have become acquainted with the works of Abbot Blossius, or who have learned something of his insight into the ways of the soul and of the spiritual life, will gladly welcome these latest volumes.

Volume V, part II, of *The Sanctuary of the Faithful Soul* has for a title "A String of Spiritual Jewels." It is composed chiefly from the revelations made to the four great Saints: Bridget of Sweden, Catherine of Siena, Mechtild and Gertrude. In his introduction, the editor, Father Delany, O. P., has given in a clear, brief and interesting manner the distinction between Revelation properly so-called and private revelations. And by way of appendix there is a sketch of the lives of the Saints mentioned with a few words on the authority of the revelations attributed to them.

In volume VI, part I, of *The Paradise of the Faithful Soul*, we have a "Rule of the Spiritual Life." Although this is considered to be the first written of the spiritual works of Blossius it easily ranks among his best. It is in a manner a treatise on the goodness of God and the confidence we should have in Him. Here there is healing medicine for the sinner, courage for the scrupulous, and consolation for the melancholy. The words of Father Delany, O. P., in his introduction are to the point: "The most attractive characteristics of the works of Blossius are his never-failing kindness, his cheerful optimism, and serene joyousness, which leave the reader convinced that all is right with this world because all is right with the next."

Throughout the pages of this little book there is an amount of true wisdom, of practical common sense which too often we find lacking in otherwise good spiritual works. Those who wish to have something delicious for meditation, something to provoke holy thought and affection, without at the same time feeling the burden of mechanical points and resolutions, will discover in this "Rule of the Spiritual Life" a veritable hidden treasure.

N. M. W.

Christian Motherhood and Education. By Rev. C. Van der Donckt. Pp. 285. New York: Fred. Pustet Co., Inc. \$2.00.

Christian motherhood, modelled as it is on the Maternity of the Blessed Virgin and of the Church, provides a theme that is as noble as it is sacred. For, with the priesthood, Christian mothers enjoy the greatest ministry on earth,—that of training souls.

That mothers may realize the dignity and importance of their vocation and thereby consecrate their lives to it, is the purpose of the author's present book. The first part of the book might be called a spiritual preparation for motherhood. Such subjects as the Maternity of the Blessed Virgin and of the Church; the nature and elements of motherhood, and an admirable collection of short biographies of saintly mothers, make up its content. The second part deals with the every-day problems of family life. Here the author follows the different stages of a mother's life from marriage to old age; and, points out as he goes along the duties of parents and the obligations of children. Among the many interesting subjects discussed and properly explained are such vital problems as the dangers of youth, the rearing of truly Christian families, birth control, and vocations. Copious quotations and examples are given from the writings of leading Catholic authors of the past and present.

Hence, this volume offers itself to Catholic mothers and daughters both as a spiritual guide and as a handy book of ready information on family ethics and Christian education. It is a worthy tribute to the author's forty years of active service in the priesthood.

J. C. D.

Living for God. By Sister Marie Paula, Ph. D. Foreword by His Eminence Patrick Cardinal Hayes. Pp. 146. New York: Benziger Brothers. \$1.50.

In fifteen interesting chapters Sister Marie Paula, Ph. D., in her latest work, *Living for God*, sets forth the fundamental principles that underlie the religious life. The title is really a bit misleading for instead of the overflowings of a mystic, which one might reasonably expect under such a heading, the reader enjoys a series of heart-to-heart talks with a practical, thoroughly capable, and experienced directress in the subject at hand—religious perfection.

At the very beginning carefully distinguishing between ideals and realities, we read, "How many seek perfection in the doing of great things that may never come their way, instead of in the perfect accomplishment of the things that make up their daily work." But it is in the chapter "Cleansing the Soul" that the author is really at her best. Here the Sacrament of Penance and everything pertaining to

it are explained in terms that cannot be misunderstood. In a word, confession is rendered the help that Christ intended it to be and not a burden or a hindrance to our spiritual advancement.

We were, however, a little surprised and somewhat disappointed to find that the consideration given to the old but ever new devotion of the Rosary of Our Blessed Mother was almost a minus quantity; perhaps the gifted writer has reserved this matter for a companion volume.

Living for God, while written primarily for the members of our various sisterhoods, will also prove very helpful for clerical religious and seminarians.

H. C. B.

Readings in Ethics. By J. F. Leibell, Ph. D. Pp. viii-1090. Chicago: Loyola University Press. \$3.00.

The primary purpose of this volume, the first of its kind in English, is to offer the student of ethics a text book of collateral reading. The text book has long since ceased to be the sole source of the student's knowledge. Supplementary reading is demanded of the student, especially in subjects covering a wide field, and involving, at times differences of opinion. The student of ethics has been handicapped in the past, not because of a dearth of ethical readings, but rather because the proper use of the numerous and useful readings has required much time and labor spent in library work. This book is offered as a remedy for this condition. Judging it by its intrinsic value it should prove successful.

The author has selected 182 readings of representative writers and authorities and placed them under the following headings: "Postulates," "Human Acts," "Law," "Rights and Duties," "Property," "Society," "State." Under each title a sufficient number of readings are found to make the problem sufficiently clear and comprehensive. Another commendable fact is that the readings are not confined to the consideration of abstract principles as not a few of them apply the principles to the solution of present-day problems. In addition to a table of contents giving the title of the article and the author, a complete index of proper names and subjects treated proves very helpful.

We recommend this work as a worth-while addition to every library. Its value to the student is apparent; while to those who have neither the desire nor the time to make a study of ethics, it will serve as a source of information and a guide in solving their own problems.

B. McG.

Imperialism and World Politics. By Parker Thomas Moon. Pp. xiv-583. New York: The Macmillan Company, \$4.50.

Foreign Policies of the United States. By James Quayle Dealey. Pp. vi-402. Boston: Ginn and Company. \$2.80.

Professor Moon has given us a most timely and informative volume. Following the period of post-war reorganization, the nations are getting down in earnest again to world business, and in this the United States, because of her greatly increased interests abroad, must take an even larger share than heretofore. After four illuminating chapters on the reasons for the imperialistic urge that struck the larger nations in the last quarter of the nineteenth century and the men and motives that carried it on, the book details the scramble for colonies and concessions in every quarter of the globe and studies the economic and social forces behind the diplomatic bargains by which the spoils were divided. Not the least interesting chapter is the one dealing with our own policy toward Latin America. The last chapter entitled "Conclusions," attempts an evaluation of the system which has brought one-third of the world's population and one-half its surface under the direct control of ten imperialist nations. It suggests questions for the future that are thought-provoking. Besides the immense amount of information contained in it, the book is extremely well written and might be classed as a necessity for one wishing to be well-informed on world politics.

Professor Dealey's book is restricted to our own foreign policy and traces the development of our relations with other countries since the Revolution. In Part One the causes which gave rise to our special problems are studied, while Part Two deals with the development of policies in those spheres in which the United States is especially interested. The purpose of the author is to give the general reader or the college student a working knowledge enabling him to understand the foreign relations of his country and to interest him in its national policies. The apt presentation of the matter and the ample bibliography fulfill this purpose admirably.

C. M. R.

An Autobiography of Abraham Lincoln. Consisting of the Personal Portions of His Letters, Speeches and Conversations. Compiled and Annotated by Nathaniel Wright Stephenson. Illustrated. Pp. 499. Indianapolis: The Bobbs-Merrill Company. \$5.00.

Few characters in American History are more familiar to us, or have a more personal appeal than that of Abraham Lincoln. In this latest work of Mr. Stephenson, truly "a mosaic of Lincoln's literary genius," we are brought into even closer and more intimate contact

with and find a greater appeal in the Great Emancipator. It is Lincoln himself who tells us the story of his life through a series of selected letters, speeches and conversations, which the compiler has dated and skillfully linked together, with explanatory notes, into a charming and interesting narrative. In his own characteristic manner Lincoln relates the account of his early years, his trials, his love affairs, his career as a young lawyer—politician and his continual rise to political heights, and finally at some considerable length his eventful and stirring years as President. Many fine touches which one often sees omitted in biographies of Lincoln are included in this volume. His quaint humor, and a sarcastic strain which characterized his early years and which he used with telling effect in his debates and arguments with his opponents are excellently portrayed.

An autobiography of Napoleon entitled *The Corsican* is the model used by Mr. Stephenson in compiling his attractive work. No one who wishes to know the true Lincoln can afford to miss reading it. It will freshen his enthusiasm for one whose nobility of life, devotion to duty and large spirit of generosity have enshrined him in the hearts of every American.

W. D. M.

DIGEST OF RECENT BOOKS

RELIGION, PHILOSOPHY: The Four Mysteries of the Faith, by the Right Reverend Monsignor Kolbe, D. D., D. Litt., analyses in a concise and scholarly exposition, the four great truths of our Faith: the Trinity, the Incarnation, the Church and the Holy Eucharist. Special chapters have also been given to the sacraments and to the sacramental system in which the student of Christian doctrine will find interesting and thoughtful reading. The last chapter discusses the *Apocalypse of St. John* as the prophetic poem of the four mysteries, summarizing what has been said from an artistic point of view rather than a theological. The treatise has been composed with great care and it should suffice to say that the book has the praise of Cardinal Gasquet in whose opinion it is "something that was much needed." (Longmans, \$2.25).

The nature of a literary work that originated in the French and has now been rendered into English by Rev. T. Lincoln Bouscaren, S. J., is clearly indicated by its title, **Principles of the Religious Life**. It is not intended as a devotional volume but is a scientific, theological and canonical work. A very complete treatise on the vows of the religious state is preceded by an explanation of the virtue of religion in general. The author quotes frequently from the *Summa Theologica* of St. Thomas of Aquin and has followed the decrees of the New Code of Canon Law. These features will prove to be of value to masters of novices, confessors, preachers, and chaplains of religious communities. (Benziger, \$1.75).

The Angel World, by Rev. Simon A. Blackmore, S. J., is an excellent little volume on the subject of the Angels. The Church's teaching with regard to their existence, nature and purpose, the opinions of theologians, answers to questions that everybody asks, are set forth by the author in

an interesting way. The book has a devotional appeal throughout and this coupled with the valuable information which it imparts concerning the angels in general, and guardian angels in particular, should merit for it a wide circulation among Catholic readers. (Winterich, \$1.75).

In **The Study of the Bible**, L.-CL. Fillion, S. S. proposes "to give seminarians and young priests some practical advice" on the reading and study of Holy Scripture. Because of his wide experience the author is very capable of doing this as his book reveals. In the first part he reviews our notions on the Bible and its relation to God and ourselves, then shows how rich a treasure it is for the priest in all his ministry. This is followed by a helpful method for Bible study. Next the auxiliary sciences are enumerated and judged. All the suggestions are given in a kindly spirit and are inspired by a deep love and reverence for God's Word. (Kenedy, \$3.00).

The Very Reverend R. G. Gerest, O. P., P. G., has published the first volume of **Veritas, La Vie chretienne raisonnee et meditee**, under the title, "A L'Image de Dieu." In this volume we find excellent treatises on the "Existence of God," the "Divine Perfections," and "The Life of God." These considerations are set forth in a concise, clear and forceful style. The author has applied each subject in a masterly manner to the fundamentals of the Christian life. As a result this book offers practical meditations which will benefit all who wish to know God better and who desire to make greater progress in the spiritual life. (Lethielleux, Paris, 15 fr.)

Protestant educators are facing the problem of choosing a psychology for the foundation of their religious teaching. New educational methods of a decidedly mechanistic trend are threatening to supplant the older purposive school, forcing entrance into religious curricula under the modern abracadabra, "Be scientific." The evaluation of these two camps of psychology has called forth **Psychological Foundations of Religious Education**, a well-organized, critical study by Walter Albion Squires. The intrinsic value of the mechanistic and the purposive systems is appraised and then each is examined in relation to the outstanding principles of religious education. At every point, the naturalistic-mechanistic psychology (represented mainly by Behaviorism) proves itself inconsonant with Christian teaching. Mr. Squires has handled his main thesis capably and succinctly. He is not, however, so felicitous in some of his *obiter dicta*. The shadowy attempt (p. 116) to saddle mechanistic psychology on Roman Catholicism is particularly wide of the mark. (Doran, \$1.25).

It is the contention of Nima H. Adlerblum, Ph. D., in **A Study of Gersonides**, that the trait—the effort to harmonize Christian belief with the finding of reason—characteristic of the Scholasticism of the Middle Ages, had its counterpart in Jewish speculation of that period. Hence, Jewish philosophy, to be properly appreciated must be considered independently of Christian thinking and must be appraised by its intrinsic worth. From a comparative study of Judah Halevi, in whom the writer recognizes the typical Jewish philosopher, and Gersonides, whose philosophy approaches that of the Scholastic, she set out to show that Gersonides' system, a mixture of Platonic, Aristotelian, and Averroism—although the author may not agree with this last—was but a rational vindication of Judaism. She treats successively: the proper point of view for a study of Jewish thought, a brief life of Gersonides together with a list of his works, an outline of his philosophy which she then views through Jewish eyes. In this last portion she shows that Gersonides' philosophy did for the Jewish religion what Scholasticism accomplished for Christianity. This work from its very nature is intended for the student of history of philosophy rather than for the general reader. (Columbia University Press, \$1.75).

SPIRITUALIA: There are some Catholics who are not enthusiastic in manifesting devotion to the Mother of God. They measure their devotion to a nicety. There are others, who realizing they can never honor Mary to the degree that Jesus her Divine Son honored her, are ever ready to declare her name and praise. To both these we recommend **Meditations on the Litany of Our Lady**, from the Doctors and the Fathers of the Church, by F. A. Forbes. (Longmans, \$0.30).

Of the many recent works written on the most beloved of God's creatures, the Blessed Virgin Mary, we know of none so readable and illuminating as **His Mother**, A Life History of Mary the Mother of Christ, by Alice W. Darton. The author purposes to show us Mary as "child, maiden, wife, mother—the woman who lived, worked, suffered, loved and persevered." That she has done this reverently and entertainingly, and in all, remarkably well, no one who reads her work will hesitate to declare. (Macmillan, \$2.25).

The Lord Is My Shepherd, by Charles J. Callan, O. P., is the latest edition of Father Callan's book on *The Psalm of the Good Shepherd*. (Psalm 22). It is a pleasure, indeed, to follow the pleasant guidance of the author as he traces "some of these beautiful and touching resemblances of the shepherd and his flock, on the one side, roaming over the hills and plains of Palestine, and the Saviour of the world with the souls of men, on the other, pursuing together the journey of life." (Devin-Adair).

The Gospels and Epistles of the Sundays and Feasts, with Outlines for Sermons prepared and arranged by Charles J. Callan, O. P., and John A. McHugh, O. P., a most orthodox and useful volume which has already become a familiar companion to many a busy pastor. The Outlines "fit in and harmonize with the Gospels and Epistles of each day, and cover in their treatment the whole range of Christian doctrine, both dogmatic and moral." (Wagner).

Teachers and parents, and all who are really interested in the proper training of the children whom God has entrusted to their care, will find **Training for Life**, by Edward F. Garesche, S. J., a little book full of useful suggestions and of practical common sense. (Kenedy, \$1.75).

God in His World (second series) by Edward F. Garesche, S. J., is a volume of descriptive essays on some famous shrines and places of pilgrimage in Europe. The author, who is a scholar and a poet, gives here in his own entertaining style, a record of "memorable experiences." (Pustet, \$1.50).

HISTORY, BIOGRAPHY: Originally written as a dissertation in the Graduate School of the Catholic University of America, **The Maryknoll Movement**, by the Rev. George C. Powers, A. F. M., has been enlarged and revised for publication. The author, who has had access to the first-hand documentary sources in the Maryknoll archives, gives us an authentic and very readable account of the origin, development, and present status of the Catholic Foreign Mission Society of America. Now that China is holding the spotlight of the world, this book should prove doubly interesting to both clergy and laity in showing the marvellous growth of an American mustard-seed in the field of this pagan land. As a setting for the story of Maryknoll, the author gives a rapid survey of the foreign mission idea in the Church from the days of the Apostles down to the present time. The Right Reverend Rector of the Catholic University, Thomas J. Shahan, has contributed a scholarly preface. The work is profusely illustrated and contains illuminating statistics of the personnel and activities of Maryknoll. (New York: Maryknoll, \$1.50).

Many items of Franciscan life previously not generally known are emphasized in the rather unscientific treatise, **The Franciscans in England** (1224-1538) by Edward Hutton. In several passages the writer's style does not lend itself to ready interpretation and occasional statements are somewhat inexact. An example of this fault is had in a paragraph on page 150, where the author falsely attributes to St. Thomas contentions that are by no means Thomistic. A parenthetical "perhaps" is frequently the only salvation from error. The work is generously annotated, includes a comprehensive index, represents extended research and contributes something to Franciscan history. However, a thorough reading of *The Franciscans in England* convinces one that Mr. Hutton should confine his efforts to matters historical and refrain from an attempt to expound Scholastic doctrines. (Houghton Mifflin, \$2.00).

Either as a treatise on the economic interpretation of the history of Europe down to the end of the Middle Ages or as a summary discussion of the economic problems of that period, readers will find the volume **Economic History of Europe—To the End of the Middle Ages**, by Melvin M. Knight, Ph. D., satisfactory and stimulating. Although the author's purpose was simply to catalogue and briefly comment on the "important facts about the main course of economic evolution in Europe to the end of the Middle Ages," nevertheless, it also serves admirably as a source book wherein may be discovered the beginnings of many of the bristling problems of modern economic life. So scarce and inadequate are treatises of this kind that Professor Knight's volume will be an asset to any student of economics or history who may be searching for a broad background of economic history with sufficient detail to indicate the gradual development and intimate connection of the elements of our modern economic life with that of the past. The present volume is the first of a series being edited by Dr. Allyn A. Young and sets a high standard which, it is hoped, will be maintained throughout the series. (Houghton Mifflin).

Many significant works have been written about men who have taken an active part in the great World War, but perhaps none more unique than the **Life of Lieutenant Michael Carlier**, by a Priest of New Melleray Abbey. Leaving home at the age of twenty, this young Frenchman renounced his high social standing, and bidding his dear ones farewell, entered the Trappist Monastery near his native city in France. The peace that was his while under the care of these holy monks was not to last long, for three years later the Great War broke over Europe, and Michael was called to serve his country. To understand how this young Trappist became a leader of men in the trenches, exercising his magnetic influence for good on those who came in contact with him, will be the reward of those who read this neat and well-written account of the monk-soldier, a model of virtue in the cloister and a hero in the Great War. Michael Carlier was killed in action September 14, 1917. (Kenedy, \$2.50).

L'Histoire du Poverello d'Assise, a French translation by Ph. Mazoyer from the Italian of P. Fachinetti, O. F. M., is dedicated in a special way to children. But it is not by them alone that great lessons can be learned from this delightful volume. The charming simplicity of this gentle saint, who loved children so much, shines forth clearly in its pages. It will aid those of maturer years in their efforts to "become as little children" in order that they may enter the kingdom of Heaven. The volume is richly illustrated from the works of the masters. (Lethielleux, 15 fr.)

It will be a source of enlightenment and deep interest to the general reader as well as a thing of genuine pride to every son of Erin, to be made familiar with the important part that Ireland has played in the preservation of and the contribution to civilization. Dr. Walsh, in his latest work, **The**

World's Debt to the Irish, does not hesitate to place the Irish race among the five peoples of the earth, namely, the Hebrews, Greeks, Romans, Irish and Italians, to whom the world is most indebted for our modern culture. This information may come as a surprise to many because hitherto it has been so little known and because, as the author states, "it is only in very recent years that the materials for the tale have been available." Yet, after reading through the four hundred pages of this work, one will readily agree that this high mark of distinction is justly accorded the Isle of saints and scholars. Not only were the Irish the mainstay and guardians of ancient culture during the barbarian invasions of the Roman Empire, but they have made very substantial and valuable contributions to the world of literature, art and law. What gives added strength to Dr. Walsh's interesting story is the fact that he has viewed his subject objectively; that "it represents the value of comparative researches in the history of civilization"; and that he quotes frequently from "writers who are neither Irish themselves nor of Irish descent." (Stratford, \$2.50).

SOCIAL SCIENCES: Dr. Cecil Clare North, in his book **Social Differentiation**, explains the differences existing in society, dividing them into differences of function or employment, of rank, of culture and of interest. He discusses the foundations, biological and social, of these differences and their control, giving the principles for the increase of those which are for the public good and for the abolition of those harmful to society. It is a thoughtful work, embodying the results of many special investigators. On the whole, the author's conclusions are logical and practical, though here and there a false judgment appears, as for example, in his treatment of the bearing of religion on culture. It is a worth-while contribution to the science of sociology. (University of North Carolina Press, \$2.50).

An Approach to Public Welfare and Social Work is the title of a book by Howard W. Odum, Ph. D., professor of sociology in the University of North Carolina. It is an outline for the study of social problems and social relationships, and intended for those who are directly engaged in public welfare work. Following the style of a correspondence course, it presents the various leading factors in social work and the problems proper to each section. Each chapter garnished with references to pertinent treatises on the matter discussed, forms a definite unit in the curriculum and assigns to the student a number of subjects as the basis for a thorough discussion of the question involved. (University of North Carolina Press, \$1.50).

Evolution and Religion in Education, by Henry Fairfield Osborn, is a reprint and re-edition of several articles originally written on the occasion of the Fundamentalist agitation against evolution which reached its climax, let us hope, in the Scopes trial in Tennessee. Mr. Osborn recalls some old truths, frequently forgotten but really vital, and presents the case of science very strongly. He has the better of a bad argument—but he proves too much. His case would have been bomb-proof if he had stayed more closely within the limits of fact. Unfortunately he dogmatizes as strongly for science as Bryan did for his notion of the Bible, assigning as demonstrated and unassailable facts theories that science hopes, with good foundation, to prove sometime in the future. (Scribner's, \$2.00).

Learning How to Study and Work Effectively, by William F. Book, is a practical and systematic work which should be of particular aid to the student who is desirous of achieving greater efficiency by more effective method of application. The author's notions on "will" are strange and seem to make our power of choice one with the instinct of the brute. Fortunately, however, no theory can destroy the God-given faculty of free-will which makes man king of creation. (Ginn, \$1.96).

LITERATURE, ESSAYS: Emile Legouis' **A History of English Literature**, the first of two volumes on the subject, covers the periods between 650-1660, and treats of the literature of the British Isles only. Although the subject-matter was prepared primarily for students at French universities, sufficient assurance was given that a translation into English would not be out of place. Its criticisms as a rule are judicious, and while the work is necessarily brief, in no sense can its treatment be called superficial. Without a doubt the author has a profound and thorough knowledge of his subject, and the fact that we are introduced to the views and impressions of an "outsider" adds interest to the work. However, it will be obvious to most readers that the type is too small. We hope that the publishers will give more attention to this detail before the second volume, by L. Cazamian, is issued. (Macmillan, \$3.75).

In **Characters and Epithets**, Dr. Nicholas Moseley, professor of Classics in Albertus Magnus College, has made a careful analysis of Virgil's *Aeneid* with a view to setting forth the deliberate purpose of the Latin poet in his characteristic coupling of certain descriptive terms with certain personages of the story. The results of this study, made in preparation for the degree of doctor of philosophy at Yale, will be of interest to any one who has followed the fortunes of the *pius Aeneas* and the *puer Ascanius* through the rhythmic ramifications of the Latin epic, but will have a special attraction for those, such as the classicist and the teacher, who want to garner all possible information on the subject. (Yale University Press, \$2.00).

Seldom do we find in nine short essays, the variety of subjects touched upon by the Rev. P. H. Gallen in **How Popes are Chosen and Other Essays**. The essay from which the book received its name and "The Ancient Harp of Erin" are interesting and instructive. The careful reader will note several historical inaccuracies in three of the essays, and some remarks in "The Gentle Art of Eating" which, in view of the state of life of the author, are rather indiscreet. Had the work been submitted for ecclesiastical approbation, these would no doubt have been eliminated. (Stratford, \$2.00).

Nineteen Modern Essays. The galaxy of authors whose works are published in this volume are among the brightest stars in the literary firmament, but the essays are not particularly arresting. Perhaps they are handicapped by being read after the introduction by W. A. J. Archbold, an essay on the history of the Essay which is as well written as any piece in the book, and a great deal more interesting than most of them. Chesterton, Gosse, and Max Beerbohm have been fortunate in the selection which was made from their essays, but some of the others, Stevenson and Belloc especially, have little cause for satisfaction. The type is annoyingly small, and perhaps it is that which prejudices one against the contents. (Longmans, \$1.75).

Newman as a Man of Letters. By Joseph J. Reilly, Ph. D. In our September, 1925, issue of *Dominicana* we gave this excellent work a full and extended review. The present edition is noticeable by its reduced price, \$1.75. The former printing was \$2.50. (Macmillan).

POETRY, MUSIC: In his preface to his collected poems James Stephens grows eloquent in apology for lyric poetry. Good lyric poetry needs no apology, and there is a generous sprinkling of good lyric poetry in the **Collected Poems of James Stephens**. He has caught the lilt of the lark, the sweet song of the thrush, and even the airiness of the fairies. He sings of the sky and the sun, the moon and the stars, for he has "dared to sing of everything, and anything." But when the poet begins to philosophize, psychologize or theologize, if you wish, he is "off the track." As a result we have Manichean dualism, Emersonian pantheism, and the brazen and blasphemous production: "The Fullness of Time." (Macmillan, \$3.00).

In her exquisite foreword to **Convent Echoes**, Devotional Verses, by Sister M. Paracleta, Kathleen Norris begins, "Like a modest and timid little yacht, that raises its white sail for the first time and slips unobtrusively away into the wide, strange waters of the big ocean, a new volume of verse is launched into the seas that are already crowded with publications." Modest, timid, unobtrusive, such indeed are these *convent echoes*. Many of them will not claim poetic excellence, but then a simple verse with the soul of truth, a spark of the love of God, is in some ways greater than Homer's *Illiad*. (Benziger Brothers, \$1.00).

Chaucer has long been considered as the father of English poetry. Perhaps he is despite assertions to the contrary. But if Anglo-Saxon is identical with Old English he is not. And so the controversy continues. To speak, however, about our poetic Anglo-Saxon ancestors, we should be personally acquainted with their works, we should know their thoughts and how they expressed them. To facilitate this we have **Select Translations From Old English Poetry** (revised edition), with prefatory notes and indexes, edited by Albert S. Cook and Chauncey B. Tinker, professors of English literature in Yale University. (Ginn, \$1.48).

Many will protest against the seemingly continuous outpouring of anthologies. They may do so, but we heartily welcome the American edition of **An Anthology of Catholic Poets**, compiled by Shane Leslie. This is a choice selection made by one who knows the art and the method. Mr. Leslie's classic introduction should be read and studied by students of literature and verse. (Macmillan, \$2.00).

The Golden Treasury of Songs and Lyrics, by F. T. Palgrave is still golden and shining in its own peerless place above the many collections of verse. The new edition, revised and enlarged, two volumes in one, should be a best seller among the lovers of the beautiful and true. (Macmillan, \$2.00).

Music Appreciation in the Schoolroom. A finely written and well illustrated work which sets out to teach not only how to understand but also how to enjoy the best in music. It consists of a series of "Lesson Plans" to accompany the "Music Appreciation Records" which have been prepared by an orchestra selected from the New York Philharmonic Society, under the skilful leadership of Henry Hadley. The book contains a wealth of material, and its aim is to show the children the difference in tonal quality of the various orchestral instruments, and the various forms of vocal and instrumental composition. Accompanying each "Lesson Plan" is a list of questions to be asked by the teacher. Also a simply written but comprehensive analysis of the selection to be played. The book also contains a series of brief but very interesting biographical sketches of composers represented in the course. It should prove an entertaining and instructive volume not only to the children but also to the older folks as well. (Ginn, \$2.00).

FICTION: Green Forest, by Nathalie Sedgwick Colby. A drama-novel, *mise-en-scened* on a transoceanic liner, whose *dramatis personae* are gathered from the first class passengers. The author's trenchant pen, which has a tendency to run to spanking metaphor, becomes at times a scalpel. A first novel, but non-amateurish. (Harcourt, Brace, \$2.00).

Hillaire Belloc's **The Emerald of Catherine the Great**, an hilarious burlesque on detective stories and ancestor myths, is well worth reading. It is a detective story "with nothing to find out." Yet, there is mystery to it—and more. An added feature to the book are the twenty-one clever illustrations by the versatile G. K. Chesterton. (Harper & Brothers).

In The Jersey Hills, by Mary V. Hillmann. There is a charm and graciousness about this story that is best explained by saying that it is a tale of student life at a girl's college with a strong vein of Catholicity running through it. The story is engaging and skilfully presented. (Kenedy, \$1.50).

Miss Watts, by Ernest Oldmeadow, is the story of a little girl adopted by a bachelor doctor. What she made out of this confirmed bachelor is not the only interesting part of the story. The style and nicely calculated action fit the story like a glove. Any one may read it and every one will enjoy it. We wish there were more like it. (Longmans, \$1.50).

Can anything clean and pleasurable come from the uninviting seas of the modern novel of romance? Let the sceptic on this point dispel his doubt by reading the latest **Strike** from the facetious pen of Will Whalen. Only a genius and humorist could accomplish this daring feat—a romance palpitating with comedy and quivering with threatened tragedy. And while the author at times comes dangerously near to stepping on forbidden territory, the subtlety of his genius is ever in command, foreseeing and fore-ordaining. It is, indeed, a novel experience. (Dorrance, \$2.00).

The Key above the Door, by Maurice Walsh, throws open to the reader's vision vistas of refreshing lochs and brown-heathered hills and dales of bonny Scotland. Many of the descriptions are skilfully wrought, but the romance as a whole is not above the ordinary, and at times, even borders on the crude. (Stokes, \$2.00).

WRITER'S AIDS: The editor of Roget's International Thesaurus has given, in his **Style-Book for Writers and Editors**, a very valuable aid to the amateur, and even the professional, writer of English. We might justly call it the "writers' ready-reference book." Too, because of its practical rules for spelling, punctuation, capitalization, and the use of the much-abused hyphen, it will be welcome both to professor and student. But it is especially fitted for the young writer and editor. How many adventurers in the field of letters know the correct use of italics; what is necessary for proper preparation of the manuscript; proof-reading; and other technique proper to the printer's art? Here such questions are treated by one who speaks with authority. It is a work destined to fill a particular need. (Crowell, \$1.50).

A Dictionary of Modern English Usage, by H. W. Fowler. In this unusual symposium on some of the more frequently misused and abused words and phases of the English tongue, there is an abundance of practical philology, conveyed in a concise and matter-of-fact style. Professors and students of English, as also writers and editors, will find this a useful book for reference work. Many of the articles are little treatises on their subjects, as for instance, those on the hyphen, metaphor, and the split infinitive. The quotations, which are usually taken from the newspaper world, and not a few provocative of laughter, help skilfully to illustrate the lesson intended. The book is not, properly speaking, a dictionary, though its roots are deeply embedded in the Oxford English Dictionary, and words are defined now and then. It is rather a combination of dictionary, grammar, and rhetoric, and in general, a humorous attack upon the crudities of twentieth-century speech, with an explanation of many gaucheries of which few are aware. (Oxford University Press, \$3.00).

SOME RECENT PUBLICATIONS

- The Congregation of the Assumption.** An historical sketch of the foundation and educational ideals of this Congregation, with a brief account of the inner life and virtues of the saintly Foundress, Mere Marie Eugenie de Jesus (Convent of the Assumption, Raven Hill, Germantown, Pa., \$0.15).
- Saint Francis, An Historical Drama.** By Father Cuthbert, O. S. F. C. Here we see the real Saint Francis, hear him speak, and feel his holy presence. (Longmans, \$1.75).
- A Boy's Choice.** The Story of St. Luigi Gonzaga. By Maud Monahan. Illustrated by Robin. A remarkable boy-story of the little hero-soldier whom we know today as St. Aloysius. Every red-blooded lad should read it. (Longmans, \$1.00).
- Music Stories for Girls and Boys.** By Donzella Cross. Children are naturally fond of stories and music. Here we have a reader, intended for the intermediate grades, giving in lively and interesting fashion some legends, myths, and fairy tales that inspired famous composers to write masterpieces. (Ginn, \$0.80).
- The Field Sixth Reader.** By Walter Taylor Field. Illustrated by Enos B. Comstock. A collection of interesting stories and poems by well-known authors. Maeterlinck is an unhappy selection, for the best is not too good for the future leaders in American thought and life. Ginn, \$0.92).
- Boys' and Girls' Prayer Book.** By Francis J. Finn, S. J. Illustrated in color, vest pocket format. A little book with simple language and illustrations to help the boy or girl to assist at the Holy Sacrifice more attentively and intelligently. (Benziger, \$0.35).
- The Little Flower Treasury.** By Caryl Coleman. A prayer-book with the Proper Mass, Novena, Litany and other special prayers in honor of St. Teresa of the Child Jesus. (Benziger, \$0.65).
- Lift Up Your Hearts.** Edited by Rev. F. X. Lasance. A new prayer-book by one who is a genius in compiling good prayer-books. (Benziger, \$2.75).
- The Holy Hour.** By Rev. C. E. Dowd. A booklet containing hymns, litanies, and suitable indulgenced prayers for *The Holy Hour*. (Lohmann, \$0.10).

PHAMPLETS: *Law, Natural—Divine—Human*, by Right Rev. Msgr. William F. McGinnis, S. T. D.; *His Day* (First Friday), meditations for Monthly Recollection Day, etc., by Mother St. Paul; *A New Year's Greeting*, from the Writings of St. Francis de Sales; *The Little Poor Man of Assisi*, St. Francis in History and Legend, by E. Leahy; *Remember Me*, Daily Readings for Lent. All five from the International Catholic Truth Society.