



The First Disciples of Saint Dominic. By the Very Rev. V. F. O'Daniel, O. P., S. T. M., Litt. D. Pp. xii-518. Washington, D. C. DOMINICANA. \$3.50.

It will be long before the members of this Province and American Dominicans generally have adequately reckoned the immense debt they owe to the present historiographer of our Province. In the past he has opened the practically sealed mine of American Dominican history and has laid the hidden treasures before the world. Old fables have been corrected, old libels refuted as a result of his really prodigious labours in this field, and due to him the light that was hidden beneath a bushel now shines before men. And now, after having gone to the very brink of the grave in an accident that cost the lives of two of his companions and injured him almost fatally, Father O'Daniel, before he has at all fully recovered, comes back to open to English-speaking peoples a new storehouse of historical lore hitherto sealed to them. In his latest work he takes us back not to the pioneers of our Province, but the very founders of the Order itself—"The First Disciples of St. Dominic."

This work is adapted and enlarged from *L'Histoire Abregée des Premiers Disciples de Saint Dominique* by Father Anthony Touron, O. P., the noted French historian who flourished in the eighteenth century. It is not however a mere translation of Touron's work for the stamp of Father O'Daniel's own originality and splendid scholarship is in evidence throughout. Many names are included which are not found in the French work, and several additions and corrections brought forth by more recent historical investigation are found in this English version. Indeed when we consider the book as a whole we must conclude that after all the Frenchman was little more than a principal witness (sometimes not even that) before Father O'Daniel's own historical tribunal, and that the verdicts rendered by this court are the author's own, based on testimony examined according to the accepted methods of historical criticism.

In his foreword the author has recounted the difficulties under which the book was compiled, and apologizes for the several lacunae which he says are present in the footnotes and bibliography, and which are due to the frequent failure of Touron to cite his authorities

and references,—a fault common in his day. However, these imperfections lamented by the author are such as would be noticed by few but himself. The footnotes are copious enough to satisfy the most exacting scholar, and the bibliography, which is Father Touron's, sufficient for any normal needs.

Here are presented for the first time in English the lives of many of the original disciples of Saint Dominic, all his contemporaries and most of whom received the habit from his hands. There are fifty-seven sketches of varying lengths, the length depending on the sources available. Unfortunately much if not most of our early history remains unrecorded, and is lost even to the efforts of such scholars as Fathers Touron and O'Daniel. Both however have gotten a maximum out of the material available.

Of the fifty-seven brethren treated here two have been canonized—Saints Peter Martyr and Hyacinth Odrowasz—, eleven officially beatified some martyrs and several others popularly known as Blessed. One was a Patriarch of Antioch and another appointed Patriarch of Jerusalem, though he declined; another was Primate of All Ireland, still another was an Archbishop, eight others were Bishops, and one, Matthew of France, our only Abbot. Two were Generals of the Order, Jordan and John of Wildeshausen; eight founders of Provinces, and eighteen of Saint Dominic's original band at Toulouse.

Here then is a work of Dominican History an altogether new contribution to this type of English historiography; a work which is no collection of legends or pious tales but a scientific historical achievement, a book worthy of great praise and a new branch on the laurels of our able historiographer. May it meet the reception it deserves!

T. R. S.

Le Père F. A. Vuillermet, O. P. By M. Adolphe Théry. Pp. xi-259. Paris: Lethieulleux. 15 fr.

In all truth we may say that the Dominican who has spent his life in zealously giving to others the fruits of his contemplation by means of the spoken word has fulfilled his vocation. But what shall we say of him who has combined with an active life of preaching the apostolate of the written word! Père Vuillermet was such a man. As a testimonial for his work as a preacher he was given the title of "Preacher General." From the time he was editor of *Le Rosaire* during his exile in Canada until his death he wrote continually on social, moral and ethical problems in a manner which brought praise from two papal Secretaries of State and from the French Academy. Through these works his life of preaching goes on.

Père Vuillermet was born in 1875 at Poligny, the city of St. Colette. He made his novitiate at Amiens and his studies at Flavigny under the illustrious Père Gardeil. Military service preceded ordination which occurred in 1901. In 1903 when the Religious of France were exiled, Père Vuillermet went to Canada. After a short sojourn among his brethren in America he returned to France and continued to live the life of a zealous priest: he preached, he wrote; he was the director of souls and the friend of youth. The war overtook France and Père Vuillermet became a chaplain; after the armistice he was decorated with the legion of Honor and the Croix de Guerre. His death occurred suddenly on March 29, 1927; he had worked to the end, spending himself for the souls of his fellow men. A monument is being erected to his memory at Poligny.

The life of Père Vuillermet has been written by one of his devoted friends, M. Adolphe Théry, *Avocat près de la Cour de Paris et Maître de conférences à l'Institut Catholique de Paris*. M. Théry shows a sincere and correct appreciation for Dominican life. He presents the story of Père Vuillermet in simple, interesting and forceful language. This "Life" with the Preface by Père Louis, O. P., the funeral oration of Père Padé, O. P. and the Bibliography of Père Vuillermet's works make the volume a worthy memorial of "the illustrious preacher and valiant apostle," as the Bishop of Saint-Claude calls the noted Friar Preacher.

T. M. S.

The Official Catholic Year Book (1928). Published with the approbation of the Hierarchy. Pp. 737. New York: P. J. Kenedy & Sons. \$4.00.

In his Preface to the first Official Year Book of the Catholic Church in the United States, the Rt. Rev. Francis C. Kelley, D. D., LL. D., Litt. D., states that "there are Year Books which rival the best sellers in circulation, and do it not once but all the time. What makes them popular is not that they are closely read, but that they record and tabulate information which cannot very well be carried around in the head yet which one needs to have at hand." The Hierarchy of the Catholic Church in the United States, seeing the need of an up-to-date volume which would contain the information of things Catholic which the Catholics of our country should know, at its meeting in September 1927, appointed a committee of Bishops under whose supervision and through whose efforts has come forth the first Official Year Book of the Church in this country.

Of necessity and primarily a year book concerns itself with catalogues, chronologies, tables and figures. In the new Year Book, in addition to information about the Catholic Hierarchy, Sacred Congre-

gations, Archdioceses and Dioceses of the United States, Religious Communities of Men and Women etc., formerly found in the Official Catholic Directory, we have, for the first time, a list of the Apostolic Delegations, Patriarchates, Vicariates Apostolic throughout the world and the Monsignori and Deans of the United States. Seminaries, Houses of Study and Mother Houses are catalogued according to dioceses. In connection with the enumeration of the Catholic Hospitals of the country, their character, training schools and class rating, there is a graph based upon information furnished by the American Medical Association Register wherein, 93.6% of all the hospitals in the United States and 93.9% of the Catholic Hospitals are "listed"; 21.2% of all, and 52.9% of the Catholic Hospitals are "approved unconditionally"; 8.3% of all, and 24% of the Catholic hospitals are "approved for general internship"; 4% of all, and only 2% of the Catholic hospitals are "approved for residence in speciality" due to the fact that the vast majority of the Catholic hospitals are General hospitals. These are figures of which Catholics may be justly proud. A classified chronology of the year, (July 31, 1927-August 1, 1928) giving a day-by-day account of the happenings of interest to Catholics is an outstanding feature of the Year Book. The chronological tabulation of the events of the Religious Persecution in Mexico, covering the same period, will be valued by the historian. Finally, there is an inspiring and consoling report of Lay Organizations and a section concerned with Titled Laymen and Laywomen.

Over and above the statistical tabulations and catalogues, the new volume includes the literary compositions which distinguish a year book from a directory. Those of an historical aspect are well chosen for an initial issue, treating, as they do, such subjects as, Early Catholic Explorers of North America, Brief History of the Roman Catholic Church in the United States and American Causes of Canonization and Beatification.

The Catholic Church in the United States is a progressive religious organization stabilized by constant and unwavering adherence to the principles of eternal truth and righteousness as against the vagaries of the times. "The religion of Jesus Christ is alien to no age, no race and no good form of government. Christ is not a stranger in any state, to any class or in any home," as is shown by contributions to the Year Book like, The Encyclicals of Pius XI and Pastorals of the American Hierarchy, Catholic Education in the United States, Catholic Charities, Catholics and the Labor Problem, Immigration and Catholic Racial Elements in the United States. They

indicate the concrete application that has been made of the doctrine of Christian charity and mutual help and propose to Catholics and non-Catholics alike, principles which offer a sound foundation upon which to build the social and economic life of our glorious Republic and to bring about and preserve international peace.

Such special features as, a Bibliography of Important Catholic Books of the Year by All Publishers, Catholic and Non-Catholic; and Forms of salutation, lead us to believe that this and future Year Books of The Catholic Church in the United States will come to be looked upon by both clergy and laity as indispensable storehouses of information concerning things Catholic in the United States. They should occupy a prominent place not only in the libraries of the land but should find their way into every Catholic home in America.

L. E. N.

The Treasury of Faith Series. General Editor: The Rev. George D. Smith, Ph. D., D. D.

Man and His Destiny. By the Rev. C. C. Martindale, S. J. Introduction by the Rev. Michael Earls, S. J. Pp. ix-85.

Jesus Christ: Man of Sorrows. By the Most Rev. Alban Goodier, S. J. Introduction by the Rev. John F. McCormick, S. J. Pp. ix-88.

The Supernatural Virtues. By the Rev. T. E. Flynn, Ph. D., M. A. Introduction by the Rev. Martin J. Scott, S. J. Pp. x-95.

Sin and Repentance. By the Rev. E. J. Mahoney, D. D. Introduction by the Rev. Thomas M. Schwertner, O. P. Pp. ix-95.

The Resurrection of the Body. By the Rev. Dom Justin McCann, M. A. Introduction by James J. Walsh, M. D. Pp. ix-96.

The Church Triumphant. By the Rev. J. P. Arendzen, Ph. D., D. D., M. A. Introduction by the Rev. Harold Purcell, C. P. Pp. x-91. New York: The Macmillan Company. Each \$0.60.

The third group of the Treasury of Faith Series is in every way the equal of its predecessors. Each subject is, as Father Schwertner remarks of *Sin and Repentance*, "touched upon clearly and succinctly . . . by a man who is not only deeply versed in theology and the ways of the human heart, but who speaks a language which the toiler of the street, distracted by the wear and worries of the struggle for existence, can easily understand." The authors have been chosen with respect to literary ability: all of them express attractively and in modern form matter which does not easily lend itself to such expression.

In *Man and His Destiny* Father Martindale has followed strictly the division indicated in the title: the nature of man and the destiny of man. He has answered the two questions which all of us ask ourselves, What am I, and, What am I for. In his own inimitable way, enhanced by good examples and personal experiences, he has treated his topic in a most praiseworthy manner.

The works of Archbishop Goodier are of that type which can be pronounced good on a priori grounds. His *Jesus Christ: The Man of Sorrows*, especially the first part, is excellent. After an introductory chapter of man and sorrow and Our Lord and sorrow, he shows us the Man of Sorrows in His life, His teachings and His death, and concludes with a chapter on the attitude of the Disciples toward suffering. The Gospel texts are so used that they give remarkable force to his words.

Doctor Flynn wisely chose to follow St. Thomas in treating of *The Supernatural Virtues*. He has divided this well written little volume into three parts: the virtues in general, the virtues in particular, and the gifts of the Holy Ghost, the beatitudes and the fruits of the Holy Ghost. We would like to have seen a discussion of St. Thomas' coordination of the virtues, gifts, beatitudes and the fruits, showing which correspond, etc.; and in enumerating the objects of charity we would have mentioned the body. The exposition of the meaning of an act of perfect charity is worthy of especial commendation.

Every Catholic believes in personal sin but not every Catholic has clear notions of everything implied in that belief. Father Mahoney, relying strongly on St. Thomas, develops this aspect of Christian Doctrine in an interesting and logical way in *Sin and Repentance*. Most of the book is concerned with mortal sin. There is a very good chapter on contrition and a noteworthy appendix on reparation. The remarks on the Mystical Body—which doctrine we sometimes neglect—are also good.

Dom Justin McCann discusses *The Resurrection of the Body* in ten fine chapters. After making clear the meaning of the doctrine, he proceeds to show its reasonableness and miraculous character, how it is based on Scripture, especially St. Paul, and Tradition; and how we shall rise in the same bodies. He answers ancient and modern objections and concludes with a treatment of the qualities of the risen body. The distinctions introduced in naturally confusing parts enables anyone to follow with ease the explanations given. This most interesting subject could not be presented in a better manner than that of Dom Justin McCann.

In the usual concise way of the Series Doctor Arendzen has answered all the questions we ordinarily ask about *The Church Triumphant*. He first explains how the vision of God satisfies the mind and the love of God satisfies the will; afterwards he takes up

the secondary sources of happiness in heaven and replies to such queries as these: Is heaven a place? Will heaven be the same for all? Do the Blessed feel for those on earth? His concluding chapter is on the state of the Blessed before the General Judgment. An appendix on the seven heavens completes the volume. Doctor Arendzen has an attractive way of saying things; for instance on page 28: "We Catholics are, as a matter of fact, great believers in evolution, but we do not trouble ourselves so much about the evolution of the past, for whatever it has been it has only an historical interest. . . . We believe in the only evolution which really matters, the evolution . . . in which our own freewill plays a part . . . we are evolving beings, evolving according to God's supernatural plan towards a life in union with Him."

Great praise is due Father Smith, the Editor of the Series. Everything is as we would wish it to be; even the size is adapted to a time which looks for compactness and *multum in parvo*. An oversight however detracts just a bit from the excellent Introduction by Dr. Walsh in *The Resurrection of the Body*: reference is twice made to Father Smith as the author of that volume. We would recommend every book in the Series to the priest, the preacher, the layman, the retreatant—in fact, to everyone who wishes to give a reason for the hope that is in him.

T. M. S.

The Life and Letters of Walter Drum, S. J. By Joseph Gorayeb, S. J. Pp. vi-313. New York: The America Press. \$3.00.

In this excellent volume, the recently deceased young Jesuit, Father Joseph Gorayeb, has raised a fitting memorial to his beloved friend and older brother in religion, the talented and eloquent Father Walter Drum of the Society of Jesus. Loyal son of the Soldier-Saint, Ignatius, and worthy of his own heroic parent, Captain John Drum, who fell in Cuba while leading his men to victory and whose mortal remains now rest among the Nation's honored dead at Arlington, it is little wonder if from time to time something of the soldier strain, something of the martial spirit innate in him should assert itself. "Father Drum's character was a dominating one and stood out imperatively in every gathering of men. He had his faults, as every child of Adam has, but a 'diamond with a flaw in it is better than a common stone with none.' By temperament—that gift of nature which is ours by birth—he was imperious and proud; but by character, and thus in deliberate action, he was humble and lowly-minded."

Extracts from his diary together with numerous letters have been judiciously selected and admirably arranged; indeed to such an extent that much of the book may be regarded as autobiographical. Of particular interest are those references pertaining to Scriptural studies and travels in the Orient. His brief though able descriptions of monuments and places famed in classical and biblical science, together with his keen survey of the customs and inhabitants of those distant lands rank him as a scholar far above the average, a priest and observer thoroughly conscious of the words of St. Paul: "Carefully study to present thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth."

To many of the clergy Father Drum will best be remembered as a Scripturalist and as a regular contributor to the *Ecclesiastical Review*, *Homiletic and Pastoral Review*, and perhaps by the number and variety of articles written for the *Catholic Encyclopedia*, *Bibliotheca Sacra*, or others of a long list of periodicals and reviews. Furthermore, his retreats to priests, the various sisterhoods, and groups of the laity from every walk of life have stamped indelibly the memory of a most successful and devoted director of souls. An excellent chapter, "Retreats," furnishes some insight as to his methods, also several touching testimonials of the great work accomplished in this special field of endeavor.

The influence of the saintly and eloquent pulpit orator, Father William Pardow, S. J., upon the aspirations and lifework of Father Drum cannot be fully estimated. But that it was something more than a mere passive agency, and that it really amounted to an impelling motive ever urging him on to greater efforts in the cause of truth is quite evident. In a certain sense it may be said that the younger soldier gathered up the standard from the falling hands of the veteran warrior and during his own brief day held aloft the Ignatian Banner in the leading pulpits of the East. The preaching laurels of Pardow lost nothing of their lustre while resting upon the brow of Drum.

Surely, the many friends and admirers of this truly great priest and religious will read his life's story with more than ordinary interest. And those who were denied the privilege of knowing and loving him in life will undoubtedly catch something of his indomitable spirit from these printed pages; a spirit which made him what he was, a loyal follower of his Captain Christ, a fearless champion of the Church, and a noble ornament to his religious brethren of the Society of Jesus.

H. C. B.

The Life of All Living. The Philosophy of Life. By Fulton J. Sheen, Ph. D., S. T. D. Pp. 236. New York: The Century Company. \$1.75.

Our generation is reaping the fruits, or rather is paying the price, of an intellectual decline of the nineteenth century, which has tended to produce an indolent impressionism—an impressionism that has followed in the wake of the current appeal to experience as against good, solid thinking. A world that is suffering from the mental ills of sluggish and misdirected thinking stands in need of men who will open up the windows of the mind to allow an inflow of fresh air. Gilbert K. Chesterton has done just this thing for our age. But “the world stands in need of more G. K. Chestertons.” And it will rejoice to find another such in Dr. Fulton Sheen who is endowed with a like freshness of presentation, but whose doctrines are deeply rooted in and redolent of the thought of St. Thomas Aquinas and the early Fathers of the Church.

The author's two previous volumes are considered by many among the most timely and the finest works of Catholic apologetical philosophy that have appeared in English. Yet they are more, for the inadequacies of contemporary thought are therein made the more patent, and a solution is given for its very quests in the thought of an Aquinas. In the volume under consideration Dr. Sheen again demonstrates the eternal newness and freshness of the thought of St. Thomas; and “If solution to modern problems is a recommendation for a philosophy . . . then the philosophy of St. Thomas is preëminently suitable to modern times.”* For the author acknowledges his indebtedness to, and his inspiration for his entire work, to the ideas contained in the eleventh chapter of St. Thomas' *Contra Gentes*.

The Life of All Living, has been rightly called “The Philosophy of Life” as it is a Christian philosophy of life—of the life which is ours through Christ. And it is timely. For following the Angelic Doctor, the author presents a twentieth century, which is essentially scientific in its attitude of mind, “an analogical description of Revealed Truths in terms of biology.” As Dr. Sheen has expressed it, “it might be called a Supernatural Biology—a treatise on Divine Life.”

The *Life* of all living things is none other than God Himself, the Author of all life and *being*. God's life, as seen in the Blessed Trinity, is set forth in a telling and compelling way. Next, we see the life of Christ in His Mystical Body, the Church. We are shown

* Fulton Sheen, *God and Intelligence* (New York, 1925), pp. 7. 8.

how we are born into this life and then pass on to the life of Christ in the Eucharist where He is our Life and Food. The price of this life is self-denial, a dying to self, whose inspiration is love of God, and whose reward is a participation in the very life of God. This life we term grace. Intimately related therewith, we see sin to be what it actually is, as well as the Judgment, Heaven and Hell—not as after-thoughts on the part of God, but as natural and logical consequences thereof. In the closing chapter we are shown how the universe itself has a sacramental value as a means whereby man may use all things created to draw closer to God. Man is the center of this universe, just as Christ is the center of the supernatural world. And Christ is God—the King of all.

This treatise is, indeed, admirably done. Its freshness of appeal is tremendous. And while it is impossible to prove the Divine Mysteries of our Faith by reason, still, here we have a splendid example of the inspiration that is ours in St. Thomas, if we will but use him thoughtfully to show forth the completeness of our Faith. More than this, the persuasions of Aquinas can be employed with a striking and fruitful effect to show not only that the Mysteries are not contrary to reason, but that they are in reality the fulfillment of the highest aspirations of man.

In reading this volume we have been repeatedly reminded of that simplicity and directness of appeal which were so characteristic of Fathers Maturin and Robert Hugh Benson. No doubt many will wish that the book had been enriched with an alphabetical index, which we hope to see added at an early date when it appears in its next edition.

J. M. B.

The Church And War. By Franziskus Stratman, O. P. Pp. 225. New York: P. J. Kenedy & Sons. \$2.25.

Facts are important, but vastly more important is the problem behind the facts. Thus, despite the fact that from 1496 B. C. the proportion has been one year of peace to thirteen years of war, the problem remains as to the place of War in the moral code. In attacking any problem all the facts must be looked squarely in the face, and the principles must be then applied. In his consideration of war, Fr. Stratman takes up the question in a vigorous but fair manner, admitting the truth at all times, even when most bitter. Theory and practicality are combined to draw sane and workable conclusions. The fundamental and basic truth, he lays down, is the Mystical Body of Christ. Throughout the world to its farthest corners exist its members,

and it lays on all of them the fulfillment of the commandment of love which distinguishes "neither Jew nor Greek" but looks on all as "one in Christ Jesus."

War and the Mystical Body is then treated. The destruction and havoc to natural foundations and to the physical life and being of man are set forth in solemn truth. The moral debacle is brought forth into light, and the tinsel and sham in which the spiritual horrors of strife are so often hidden are ruthlessly stripped away, for he is dealing with a matter whose importance and results are well nigh incalculable. The evil effect of war on missionary work is shown.

But, if war is morally right and the good effects outweigh the evil effects, then war is still permissible. The metaphysical and moral problem is then dwelt upon. The necessity of war is denied. In what is undoubtedly the outstanding element of the book, the conditions of a just war are laid down according to the traditional Catholic teaching. Four conditions are required; viz: declaration by lawful authority; a just cause, which presupposes positive evidence as to the moral guilt of the other party and moral certainty of victory; right intention, and the conducting of the war in the right manner. The application of these principles to modern war shows that it is impossible to justify war today. The assertion is not gratuitous, but demonstrated by an impartial and thorough examination of the facts, substantiated by the very attitude of nations trying to shift the responsibility on each other.

War is, or should be, ordained to establishing peace and justice. How can these be obtained other than by War? A discussion of the theories of Peace follows. There is Pacifism and Pacifism. Classic Pacifism is praised in its attempt to establish the rule of right and justice by an international system, but criticized for not going to the root of the disorder and conflict among nations, which is the upset of human nature. Only by living the doctrine of the Mystical Body can the world be knit together in a solid bond. Supplementing this true patriotism will show men the way to a pure devotion to country and its ideals and will drive out hatred of other nations by substituting respect and consideration for them. The two chapters on Patriotism and Love of Mankind are classics.

The original work, due to its honesty, clarity and rare scholarship, produced a profound effect in Germany. The translation, by H. Wauchope, is perhaps the ranking book in our lan-

guage on the subject of War and Peace, and merits for the publishers the gratitude of all true lovers of Justice. L. M. C.

Catholic Preachers of Today. With an Introduction by His Eminence Cardinal Bourne. Pp. xvi-265. New York: Longmans, Green and Co.

This timely work constitutes a well arranged volume of sermons by prominent churchmen of England, America, Australia, Ireland and South Africa. The United States are represented by "The Spirit of Christ and the Spirit of the World," a masterly oration from the pen of His Eminence Cardinal O'Connell of Boston, also by "The Wonders of God," the memorable address of His Eminence Cardinal Hayes at Solemn Mass on the occasion of the closing exercises of the Twenty-Eighth International Eucharistic Congress convened at Chicago during June, 1926. Other notable contributions to this compilation of seventeen sermons are: "The Sufferings of Christ," by Rev. Ronald A. Knox, "Unity" by C. C. Martindale, S. J., "The Mass" by Rev. Pius Carolan, C. P., and "The Mellowing of Old Age" by the Rev. Hugh Pope, O. P. With all due reverence, we feel that the otherwise scholarly Introduction by His Eminence Cardinal Bourne has been somewhat marred by the unhappy comparison which may be gathered from: "Whether it be a Cardinal who preaches, or a simple priest; be it a member of a religious order trained in lengthy leisure for his task, or one of the pastoral clergy over-burdened by the daily cares of his charge, the message is the same however differently it may be delivered." Those of us who have experienced the thorough training of a religious order will readily agree that its length has some foundation in fact, but its leisure, as the term is ordinarily understood, belongs to the realms of fancy.

From time to time, even as early as the Patristic Age, discourses have been grouped between covers and styled "homiliaria," "sermon books," and the like. These were much in vogue during the Middle Ages, frequently being used as models, then again pressed into service with slight change or adulteration. Until comparatively recent years a volume of this nature was a veritable *vademecum* for many busy clerics. However, the present generation, and not without reason, is accustomed to look askance upon everything bearing the impress of the "sermon book." But just as the numerous volumes of Newman, Manning, Faber, and other masters of English religious prose are still read and studied after a lapse of half a century, so also,

we feel that *Catholic Preachers of To-Day* may satisfy a similar need in this modern era of self-sufficiency and originality.

Primarily, it is a book of fundamental and eternal truths, a work that every Catholic and non-Catholic may read and re-read with real profit. As a fount of worthwhile ideas, as well as apt subject matter for meditation and spiritual reading for the clergy, sisters, and laity during periods of retreat, its merit is indeed inestimable.

H. C. B.

DIGEST OF RECENT BOOKS

RELIGION, PHILOSOPHY: The animus of this latest contribution to religious controversy, **Our Fathers Faith and Ours**, by David S. Schaff, D. D., can well be judged from its sub-title, *A comparison between Protestantism and Romanism*. It is frankly a disappointing book whose author can only be held exempt from disingenuousness by the assumption of an ignorance which the very erudition of the book, to say nothing of its writer's position as professor in the leading Protestant seminary of the country, forbids. It is a masterpiece of half-truths, and can not fail to become a veritable storehouse of misinformation for ignorant fanatics. Space does not permit any detailed refutation of its many inaccuracies, and any partial one would be worthless. It will be enough to remark that the author attempts to refer the larger part of Catholic dogma to the Middle Ages and never gives the slightest hint that these dogmas are held by the schismatic Greeks. This is fatal to his thesis. His acquaintance with Catholic doctrinal literature is extensive, but ten minutes of conversation with a Catholic priest would have given him a much needed insight into the genius of the Catholic Faith, the absence of which is probably the real reason of its glaring injustice. It must be said with regret that the book can only be placed in the same category as Littledale's discredited *Plain Reasons* and will doubtless speedily meet the same fate. (Putman's).

Basing his thesis on the age-old doctrine of the mystical body of Christ, the Abbé Grimaud in **My Mass** presents a clear, precise exposition of the part which the faithful play in offering the Mass. The majority of Catholics, looking upon the priest as the minister of Christ and the offerer of the sacrifice, fail to appreciate the intimate part that is theirs as co-offerers of the Mass. Msgr. J. F. Newcomb has translated the work from the French and in so doing has opened the way to a realization on the part of Catholics that each Mass they attend devoutly is really *My Mass*. The section on the means of hearing Mass well is especially practical. (Benziger, \$2.00).

The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass by Martin J. Scott, S. J., is one of his best works. Although the subject is one of the most sublime, Father Scott's ability to express theological and mystical thought in clear, simple language gives the general reader a practical knowledge of the greatest oblation man ever offered to God. (Kenedy, \$1.50).

The Rev. S. Middleton, Ph. D., in his small, tastefully, and durably bound book of short meditations, **Christ and the Priest**, has achieved his aim to keep before the mind of the priest his true character and happiness in the study of his Model, Christ. Each part of each meditation is prolific of thoughts that prevent the deterioration of the priest, whose dealings with the outer world draw him from, and blind him to, his singular utility and importance, and his duty to self-sanctification. The style of the book is simple, candid, and winning. The use of concentrated studies of

plates of the finest paintings, readings from Scripture and the Roman Missal, together with up-to-date applications will make of this book a most beloved companion to the busy curator of souls who has time but to glance at a picture, or read a paragraph. (Benziger).

The Reign of Christ, a most timely book whose talented author has interpreted very well the spirit of the three great encyclicals of Pius XI, *The Consecration of All Mankind to the Sacred Heart, Christ the King*, and *Reparation Due to the Sacred Heart*, in relation to our every day life. Fr. Husslein makes his readers realize that the thoughts contained in these papal documents are not merely of passing interest but the foundation stones of our spiritual life. It is a most useful and excellent book both for priest and layman and will do much for making Christ better known, and increasing devotion to the Sacred Heart, Our Blessed Mother and St. Joseph. (Kenedy, \$2.00).

God Infinite and Reason, by William J. Brosnan, S. J., Ph. D., is a scientific study of God, by the light of reason. It is a sequence of the author's earlier work *God And Reason*, in which the existence of a self-existing God was demonstrated. In the present volume there are ten theses, nine of which deal with the attributes of God as seen in His metaphysical essence; the tenth thesis is devoted to a refutation of Pantheism and the various erroneous forms of Monism. The author employs the Scholastic method throughout. Preceding each thesis is a copious, though incomplete list of recent and present-day adversaries, with excerpts and explanations of their doctrine. Each thesis is followed by objections and their refutations which elucidate the doctrine. As is suggested by the title, this book is no ordinary reading; it requires a philosophical background and a training in Scholastic presentation. The clergy will find in this work a valuable supplement to their philosophy and theology; while the laity can fashion from it dialectical weapons to defend their belief in God. (The America Press).

Father Scott's Radio Talks is the title to the latest book from the pen of that leading apologist and masterly defender of the doctrines of the Church, Rev. Martin J. Scott, S. J. It consists of a collection of twenty-five fifteen-minute talks which Father Scott gave over the Paulist Radio Station WLWL, yielding to a widespread request for their publication. The topics treated in this book constitute a resumé of the principal doctrines of the faith which actively affect society and the workaday world of today. Among the subjects which this unparalleled stylist projects are modernism, sex matters, divorce and birth control. In clear-cut argumentation he also explains the doctrine on Church and State, Purgatory, Hell and Indulgences. In a most laudable effort to dissipate misinformation and misunderstanding concerning organized opposition to the Church, Father Scott explodes the Freemasonry hostility to revelation in the true Church. A chapter entitled "The Roman Question" is a most opportune treatise of something that is on the lips of most Americans just now. His final chapter "The Pope" might well be read and re-read not only for spiritual good by the faithful but also for enlightenment of those outside the Church, and the dispelling of error and prejudice against the Holy Father and the primacy of the Holy See. (Kenedy, \$2.00).

Those interested in Catholic liturgy and others desirous of information on the holy Sacrifice of the Mass will welcome the new edition of that handy volume, **The Mass**, by Rev. Joseph A. Dunney. Although the author primarily intended his work for the instruction of Catholic school children, we venture to say it has been more in use, and will continue to be so, among the more advanced students and seminarians. The work, though of course not exhaustive, is substantial and comprehensive. The usual division of the Mass is treated; the various parts, their relative importance

and significance. The many illustrations alone with their symbolic meaning make the book a profitable study for both young and old. We should suggest, as an added feature, an appendix explanatory, even briefly, of the various rites. (Macmillan, \$2.50).

"The better world has been one of man's most unquenchable and most elusive hopes." Thus begins **Liberty in the Modern World** (a posthumous work) by George Bryan Logan, Jr., and to all appearances thus it ends. In some nine chapters the author traces the history of men and movements through the ages to the present day, emphasizing the place of liberty in law, thought and expression, government, industry, science and religion, concluding that here in this world is man's destiny. His ideal of brotherly love, good conduct, respect for law, the right and proper use of the gift of freedom possessed by man, would be praiseworthy were it not inadequate, incomplete, and unsatisfactory, because it goes no further. It is not far-reaching enough. Aside from his obvious denial of a future state, he substitutes humanism for religion. Moreover, he considers religion as one of the subdivisions of sociology instead of the foundation and core of life, in which social action is but a part. For the Catholic, sound Christian ethics, the reassuring doctrine of the immortality of the soul, and the promise of the Vision Beatific are a potent, positive and effective antidote for this aimless and discouraging philosophy. (U. of North Carolina Press, \$2.00).

SCRIPTURE: The parables, to the hearers of Christ, were clear as to their literal meaning and of absorbing interest. But behind these pleasing and easy running narratives Christ taught profound lessons incapable of being grasped by those, who in His own words, "have ears and hear not." To us unfamiliar with so many of the characteristics and settings which are peculiar to Jerusalem, even the literal meaning of the parables lost much of their force. To bring out the full significance and to set forth hidden truths of these, Père Olivier has given us **The Parables of Our Lord**. The book is composed of three sections; the parables of the kingdom of God, the parables of Mercy, and the parables of the Judgment. In the translation, by E. Leahy, the force and beauty of the original are preserved, giving us the parables in a setting of magnificence and expressed in soul-stirring, impressive and captivating simplicity. (Kenedy, \$3.25).

Every lover of the Psalms, and especially those who are obliged to recite the Breviary daily, will find **A Dictionary of the Psalter**, by Dom Matthew Britt, O. S. B., an invaluable help to devotion and an easy means of clearing up many difficulties of the Latin text. Besides the dictionary proper there is a copious introduction which explains all the peculiar idioms and Hebraisms of the Vulgate Psalter. This book should have a place in the library of every priest and seminarian. (Benziger, \$4.50).

HISTORY, BIOGRAPHY: Mary Lawton, in **Schumann-Heink**, gives us the story of the life of this great singer as coming from her own lips. Mindful of her early days of struggle, she has left nothing out that would be of interest to the reader. The manner in which she relates her trials and successes indicates her unselfish devotion to her profession. Her Motherly advice to young women, is well worth while. Besides being the a great singer, she was always a true and devoted mother, filled with love and ambition for her children. Hence her sound advice is not entirely as an observer of life, but one richened with experience. (Macmillan, \$5.00).

The second of the contemplated four volumes of **St. Basil, The Letters** with Greek text and English translation by Roy J. Deferrari, Ph. D., shows the human side of this great Caesarean bishop of action and government. It is a relief to see a learned and accurate translation from Greek which does not smack too formidably of the classroom. Critical and explana-

tory notes are plentiful. The work has that personal, biographical touch which only private letters can give. (Putmans).

In fifteen short chapters of a volume entitled **Teresa of Avila the Woman**, Katherine F. Mullany presents an interesting study of "Spain's greatest woman." The author limits herself, as far as possible, to a consideration of the natural character of her subject. She emphasizes the beauty and strength of this character as manifested in her trials before the Reform of the Carmelite Order and, more especially, after the foundation had undertaken this task. Extracts from various sources and quotations from Teresa's own writings show the human side of our saints and the difficulties they encountered on the road to perfection. In the chapter on *The Reformer* the author says: ". . . in Teresa's day mental prayer was little practiced; vocal prayers and chanting of the Office being the only method then in use in the monasteries. . . . outside of the 'Little Company of Jesus' it was practically unknown." This is not true. Leaving aside the words quoted above, this small volume should prove a source of encouragement and consolation for those striving to better themselves spiritually both within and without the convent walls. (Pustet, \$1.25).

The History of Catholic education in America is essentially connected with the Sisters of the divers teaching Orders and Congregations. Anyone interested in Catholic education will welcome this new book, **Sister Julia** by Sister Helen Louise, S. N. D., which tells the life-story of one of those noble and valiant women who succeeded, by her own superb faith and indomitable courage, in spite of the seemingly insuperable obstacles that beset her from every side. Sister Julia (Susan McGroarty) was born in Ireland and in her were found the sanctity and scholarship of her native isle. The book written in a beautiful and interesting style, makes very interesting and most profitable reading. (Benziger, \$5.00).

The centenary of Catholic Emancipation, which is to be celebrated this year in Great Britain and Ireland, makes appropriate the publication of Denis Gwynn's book **The Struggle for Catholic Emancipation**. Naturally it lacks the fulness of detail and the authoritativeness of Bishop Ward's monumental work, but, for the average reader, it contains a succinct outline of the agitation which has immortalized the name of Daniel O'Connell. The sad story of the differences which arose between English and Irish leaders during the debate upon the Veto, is told in temperate fashion and with an admirable lack of the bitter partisanship which marred it, though perhaps Dr. Milner is treated with too much consideration. We are glad to note the fairness of the treatment of Dr. Troy who has not always received justice at the hands of Irish writers upon the period. Americans will be much interested in the threat of Bishop England of Charleston, which Mr. Gwynn seems to think is in North Carolina, to send forty thousand armed men under General Montgomery in the event of an armed rising. The book is well written and will repay reading by all interested in a great victory over a "Protestant Ascendancy" and will stiffen American Catholics in their resistance to any attempt to rank them as a subject people. (Longmans, \$3.50).

DEVOTIONAL: Greater Perfection, the spiritual Conferences of Sister Miriam Teresa, by Rev. Charles C. Demjanovich, is a gem of devotional literature. That these profound conferences, dealing with the means and methods of achieving intimate union with God should have been produced by a novice-Sister is truly astonishing, and merits the pious hazard of their censor, that "the manner of their origin, dissemination and publication would indicate some particular purpose in the plan of Divine Providence for God's greater glory." Their scope is broad, ranging through such subjects as Sanctification, the Mass, the Sacraments, Prayer, the Incarnation and Union with God, but so simply are these truths unfolded that laics

as well as religious may find in them a well of inspiration and devotional suggestions. (Kenedy, \$2.00).

In **Doctrine Spirituelle de Sainte Jeanne Françoise Chantal** Fr. Mezard has effected an ascetical synthesis of the teachings of the sainted Foundress of the Visitandines. The work forms a very excellent manual on Religious Perfection. It should be well received by all our sisterhoods since the admirable instructions and prudent counsels of St. Jeanne de Chantal so carefully arranged in this book were primarily directed to religious women consecrated to God's service. (Letheilleux, 25 fr.).

LITERATURE, DRAMA, FICTION: **Yet Do Not Grieve** by Conal O'Riordan is a story of the son of an Irish Baron. Born in Ireland, reared in England, David Tyrconnell Quinn follows in the footsteps of his father, and becomes a member of the King's Halberdiers, but sees no fighting until the end, when he is accidentally wounded by a comrade at Waterloo. The story includes fascinating side-lights when it introduces the members of the Royal family, and their idiosyncracies; the operations of the Bank of England; and the old Irish nobility. The book is interesting, but at times it is drawn out too much and loses some of its force. (Scribners, \$2.50).

Florence Ryerson and Colin Clements are both well known in the literary field and have had long experience in the theatre. **All on a Summer's Day** is a volume in which they give us six delightful one-act plays. They can be recommended to Little Theatres, Colleges and Schools, (French, \$1.50).

Barry Connors has taken a plot that was famous in the days of melodramas, named it **The Mad Honeymoon** and succeeded in giving us a most refreshing and sufficiently humorous comedy. At times it becomes almost slap-stick, but even a little slap-stick can be appreciated in these days,—it is becoming a lost art. (French).

One of the outstanding results of the renewed interest in mediaeval literature and art is to be found in the attention being given to Miracle plays. For years students of the history of drama have seen in them the ancestors of the modern play, but it is only in recent years that efforts have been made to adapt them for modern stage production. Great credit, and the thanks of all interested in real art, is due to the Harvard Dramatic Club for its annual portrayal of these art treasures of forgotten years. Donald Fay Robinson has gathered into a single volume six plays produced by the club and added to them four others which have not yet been produced, though richly deserving of the honour. The plays included in **The Harvard Dramatic Club Miracle Plays**, represent England, France, Holland, Spain, Germany and Italy. Full directions are given as to production and an appendix contains the appropriate chant, apparently derived from the Solesmes liturgical books, with the exception of one part song in the Coventry play. These plays contain nothing to render production difficult and their spirit of rich Catholic piety commend them as a substitute for the insipid Christmas pageants so often inflicted upon our long-suffering Catholic people. The work of editorship has been splendidly performed by Mr. Robinson and there is a fine preface by George Pierce Baker which is most stimulating. (French, \$3.00).

He came Seeing, A Play in One Act, by Mary P. Hamlin, is based on the Gospel account of the healing of the boy born blind, one of the miracles worked by Our Lord in the last year of His life on earth. It recalls the good news of "the Son of Man Who came from God," and touches the heart-strings especially near the close, when the boy born blind receives his sight from Jesus, but as a price (disclosed by the stern aristocratic Pharisee, Hilkiah) has to give up father, mother and all his friends. The characters are two men, two women, a boy of eighteen and neighbors

(children included). The action passes in a room of a small stone (or mud-brick) house in Jerusalem in December of the last year of Jesus' life. This play of about thirty pages makes a pleasant and instructive entertainment and may be warmly recommended for the use of parish and school dramatic societies. (French, \$0.35).

The Springboard, A Comedy in Three Acts, by Alice Duer Miller. In this comedy, produced at the Mansfield Theatre, New York, October 12, 1927, Miss Miller has woven an interesting plot about two figures: "Vickie" Hazen, a self-indulgent and sans-character fellow, and young Mary McVittey, the girl he steals from George Bayard, his solid and serious partner-in-law. Vickie persuades Mary, holder of the Flemming Art Prize, not to go to Paris but to stay at home and marry him. Three years later, innocent Mary, scolded by Vickie's Mother because her son neglects her, scolded by George because Vickie neglects business, and scolded by Mrs. Flemming, a rich, dashing, handsome and quite young widow, for preventing Vickie—so it seems to her—from seeing her sometimes, gets a divorce and regains her former freedom and peace. But only for a short time, for Vickie, sick with fever, keeps after her and contrives to rest his head on her shoulder again before the curtain drops. The six female and four male characters are well chosen and their parts are cleverly written. The play teaches the attractiveness of a good and serious-minded young woman and should appeal to American College dramatic societies. (French, \$0.75).

Isabelle Clarke in **Strangers of Rome** tells the story of two sisters, Enid and Jean Shirley. They pay a visit to Rome and for the rest of their lives are influenced by the events which happened in the Eternal City. The death of their mother following so quickly upon that of their father leaves them to face the realities of life alone. One, making her own pleasure the term of all her activities, finds only restlessness and dissatisfaction, discovering finally that the crowning disappointment is the penalty for a transgression committed in her early life. The other, with unflinching courage and unswerving devotedness to a high ideal, attains happiness for herself by providing it for others. One admires the gentle Duchess, loves the solicitous and loyal Jean, and despite her selfishness feels sorry for Enid. The story is interesting, the narrative pleasingly handled, and the characters searchingly and skilfully portrayed. (Longmans, Green & Co., \$2.50).

The New Beatrice, by Gratia Eaton Baldwin, is a little book which will prove of interest to a Dante student. It is a special work and its aim is to prove as far as possible that Beatrice is not an historical but an allegorical figure. "the Virtue that counsels." It is a clever book and shows wide reading and understanding. Although one may not agree with all Miss Baldwin's conclusions, they command respect, for it is quite evident that they were all well thought out. One statement, however, was not the result of thought but of misunderstanding. St. Thomas Aquinas did not consecrate his life or his thought to the doctrines of his Order. His Order as such has no doctrines, it is an integral part of the Catholic Church and has no private system. The "Summa" is a brief, clear and ordered exposition of the entire Catholic Doctrine. (Columbia University Press, \$2.00).

It will be difficult to find among modern American prose anything to equal, in living interest and appeal and lyric beauty of expression, Henry Van Dyke's latest Christmas story, **Even Unto Bethlehem**. This "human story of a divine event" is told with dignity and reverence. Unfortunately, the author does not share the light of our Faith, the light that enlightened Augustine, Jerome, Bernard, Aquinas. Hence, he does not see, as they saw, that in that "Holy Night" there were no "sharpest pains" but all "deepest joys." The birth of Christ was not ordinary. It was mirac-

ulous. As St. Thomas says, to show that He was man Christ was born of a woman; to show that He was God He was born of a Virgin, without pain or sorrow. (Scribners, \$1.50).

Fiction By Its Makers, edited by Francis X. Talbot, S. J., is a collection of essays dealing with the novel, previously published in America, and now gathered in book-form. The contributors, Catholic authors, such as, Chesterton, Belloc, Ronald Knox, Henry Bordeaux, Kathleen Norris, Agnes Repplier, Francis J. Finn, S. J., give their views on various aspects of this type of fiction. The Novel Reader, the Modern Novel, the Catholic Novel, the Art of the Novel, the Trend of the Novel, are some of the subjects that are treated. The book deserves attention, since it is interesting, entertaining, and thought-provoking, many of the opinions proposed having already provoked a lively controversy. A bibliography of the contributors' works is appended. (America Press).

EDUCATION, SOCIOLOGY: The value of a proper training for **The Community School Visitor** can scarcely be over-emphasized. Inspired by this fact and guided by her own experience and that of others, Sister Mary Salome, O. S. F., in this latest of the Marquette Monographs on Education, defines clearly the position and analyzes practically the duties of this important factor in Parochial-School education. To the teachers of her community, the School Visitor should be an adviser and consoler. Her experience is the Alembic in which the progressive plans of each receive their sympathetic analysis and efficient evaluation. This excellent study should be of especial interest to Religious Superiors as well as to the individual Sisters under their charge. To the various Visitors, it should prove, if not a norm, at least a worthy ally. (Bruce, \$1.20).

Two very interesting volumes have recently been added to the social study series of the University of North Carolina. **Public Poor Relief In North Carolina** by Roy M. Brown contains a brief analysis of the public poor relief in the state from the Colonial period down to our own times. The author brings to light the horrible conditions existing in many counties due to want of proper supervision and lack of segregation of the physically and mentally unfit from the deserving poor. The progress of recent years is noted and it augurs well for the future. (University of N. Carolina Press, \$2.00).

Welfare Work In Mill Villages by Harriet L. Herring is a volume replete with first hand information. The author personally investigated three hundred and twenty-two mills and villages and makes a clear, straightforward presentation of the facts. The contents treat of the people of N. Carolina and their economic activity—the people in the mills—educational activity—aid of churches—community work—extra-mill activities—housing. The receiver was glad to learn of the close contact that exists between employer and employee and the former's realization that he is dealing with human beings. It is a good index of what future development may bring. (University of N. Carolina Press, \$5.00).

Bulletin No. 5, of the Catholic University of Pekin. It is just five years since the Holy Father entrusted the care of China's Catholic education to the American Benedictines. In this short time marvels have been accomplished under their able care, and under the direct guidance of the Rev. Barry O'Toole, rector of the University. *Bulletin No. 5*, is able to compare with the majority of American college and university bulletins both in matter and in form. Its cover breathes forth the spirit and characteristics of China, and in perusing its pages, one will find a veritable store-house of erudition. The life and history of the Ex-Prime Minister of China, who has recently entered the Benedictine Order is very interesting and gives an insight into the soul of this great diplomat, M. Rene Lu Cheng-hsiang. The student of history will find "The Contemporaries of Marco Polo" a very

enlightening story of the great Franciscan Friar and his co-workers in the discoveries of those ancient Asiatic Empires. (The Archabbey Press, Latrobe, Pa.).

SOME RECENT PUBLICATIONS

With Saints and Sages. By Father Lasance. A Book of Reflections and Prayers. (Benziger, \$4.75).

The Page of Christ. By Rev. Raymond J. O'Brien. A short book of instructions for altar-boys. (Benziger).

The Forty-Hours Devotion to Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament, by J. E. Moffatt, S. J. (Benziger. \$0.20).

Stations of the Way of the Cross. By Bro. Max Schmalzl, C. SS. R. (Pustet).

Come Follow Me. By Rev. Patrick T. Quinlan. (Benziger. \$0.20).

Plays Published by Samuel French, The Poor Little Turkey Girl, a Play of Pueblo Indian Folk Lore, by Dorothy Hamilton Brush; **Pink And Patches,** by Margaret Bland; **The Little Flower,** by Marie Doran; **Knives From Syria,** by Lynn Riggs; **Corney Takes a Chance** by Erastus Osgood; **Joe** by Jane Dransfield; **Blood O'Kings** by Jane Dransfield; **Miss Tabitha's Garden** by Martha M. Seavey; **Betty Engaged** by Marion Short; **Cinderella** by Eugenia Sheppard Black; **Hero Worship** by Francis Hargis; **The Land of Dont Want To** by Lilian Bell and Alice Gerstenberg; **Really Mr. Jenkins** by R. Dana Skinner; **Pride and Prejudice** by Mrs. Steele MacKaye; **Take My Advice** by Elliott Lester; **That Upper Forty** by Marvin Herrick and Hoyt H. Hudson; **What Imagination Will Do, Mister Susan Peters,** by Harriet Ford; **Balanced Diet** by Elizabeth Lay Green; **The Old Timer's Bureau,** by John H. Munson; **How the Princess Capricious Became the Empress of Tiny Isle** by John Russel; **Wedding Clothes** by Grace Kiner; **Crick Bottom Plays,** five midwestern sketches, by E. P. Conkle; **Too Busy,** by Bertha Wallace; **Out of the Night,** by John Smith; **The Clean Up,** by Barry Connors; **The Meanest Man in the World,** by Augustin MacHugh.

Margaret Sinclair by F. A. Forbes, Lethielleux, Paris.

PAMPHLETS: Shock Troopers of Christ by Francis P. LeBuffe, S. J. **Christmas Thoughts** by William I. Lonergan, S. J. (The America Press, each \$0.10). **Catechetical Classes for Public School Catholics** by Rev. Joseph Moreto (Sunday Visitor, each \$0.10).