

THE FRIAR'S BOOK SHELF

The Friars Preacher, A Seventh Centenary Sketch, by Rev. V. F. O' Daniel, O. P. The Holy Name Bureau, 871 Lexington Avenue, New York. Paper covers, 35c.; cloth, 75c. Pp. 153.

This little volume from the pen of the historian of Saint Joseph's Province is intended as a climax to the nation-wide celebration of the seven-hundredth anniversary of the Papal confirmation of the Dominican Order observed in the United States during the last months of 1916 and the first months of the present year. In treating an historical subject Father O'Daniel is eminently on familiar ground; when he speaks on Dominican history, and in particular on the work of the Friars Preachers in the United States, he is without a peer. It is therefore not surprising that he has turned out a book of unusual merit. The personality of Saint Dominic, the genius of his Order, the wonderful compass of its activity, its relations to the Church, its remarkable contributions to civilization and learning, are treated with that deftness of touch that bespeaks the master's hand. In a few pages is to be found compressed a vast amount of solid information.

As the author points out, the work is intended for the general reader. Its style is therefore simple, direct, and clear. Perhaps the fact that the book was written for popular reading excuses the lack of more abundant references. Despite this, the student of history cannot but regret profoundly that the evident merits of this book must suffer even the slightest diminution in value.

The chapter on Saint Joseph's Province is particularly well done. And the fourth part of the work—translations into English for the first time of several important Papal documents bearing on the history of the Order—is a permanent contribution to the English historical sources pertaining to Dominican history.

We hope that every lover of Saint Dominic and his Order will procure a copy of "The Friars Preacher."

Illustrations for Sermons and Instructions, by Rev. Charles J. Callan, O. P., published by Joseph F. Wagner, New York. \$2.00. Pp. 378.

Ofttimes a good sermon or lecture lacks sparkle and warmth for the want of happy, pointed illustrations. Frequently good

ideas seem water-logged, feeble, commonplace, soulless until a good, practical story throws off their leaden ballast, gives them life, and wings the speaker's words with inspiration. Father Callan in this latest product of his facile pen aims to remedy just such defects. He has succeeded admirably. He places at the finger-tips of every priest and Catholic layman who may be called upon to speak in public, a wealth of thought-provoking spiritual and intellectual gems that might well be the result of a lifetime of careful mining. The book is a master-key to the treasure house of Time's literary temple. The Sacred Scriptures and secular classics, the word-wizards of antiquity as well as of our own day, are made to yield their best and choicest paragraphs. The index, which gives instant reference to almost a thousand subjects, is an achievement in keeping with the careful compilation of the work.

Its utility is not, however, limited to purposes of reference. It seems equally well adapted to spiritual reading. The subjects are so many and varied that the reader can find themes to suit the mood of the moment, chosen by one whose reputation as a scholar and master of the spiritual life commands wide respect. On this account we trust that a copy of this book will soon be found in the library of every religious community and Catholic home in the country.

Veni, Sancte Spiritus! A Timely Meditation on the Holy Ghost for Priests and Religious, by Rev. Clement M. Thuente, O. P. The Mission Press, Techny, Ill. Pp. 16.

This delightful little brochure comes like a breath of pure air to the parched lips of a fever-stricken man. Father Thuente needs no introduction to the Dominican family in America. That spiritual unction that pervades all his writings and the holy fire that flames in his sermons quicken every page of this meditation. Hard, indeed, must be the heart that does not thrill with a new-born hope to get nearer to God—to the Father, to the Son, to the Holy Ghost—as he drinks in Father Thuente's message in "Veni, Sancte Spiritus."

"Sonnets and Other Verses," by Rev. Francis J. Gaffney, O. P., has gone into its second edition. This unusual evidence of appreciation is well merited by this classic little volume of verses. Every page is rich in song that wings its way straight to the heart, while in many places heights of real poetic worth are

reached. The "Sermons in Flowers" are redolent of Father Tabb. We quote "The Violet" as a little gem of rare taste and delicacy:

"A violet nursed a foundling tear
Which heaven had wept for sin.
An angel saw and drawing near,
Made floret royal kin.
Each mother's heart is full of tears,
Her children's are but brief,
Madonna-like, she walks through years
Empurpled in her grief."

We hope that there will be other editions of this beautiful volume, and other volumes from Father Gaffney.

The first volume of the History of the Dominicans in Ireland, treating of the Dominican Bishops of the Emerald Isle has just been published by Father MacInerney, O. P. Everywhere it has been praised for its scholarly spirit and scientific excellence. It is expected that it will require five volumes to complete the work.

The life of the Very Rev. Thomas Lorente, O. P., Vicar Provincial of the Spanish Dominicans in the United States, and founder of the Dominican foreign missions seminary at Rosaryville, La., has been published recently.

"Le Saint Rosaire," by Père Jourdain Harpin, O. P., of Fall River, Mass., has recently been given to the public. The work is divided into two parts, the first for the laity containing meditation on the mysteries, and other devotional matter pertaining to the Rosary; the second, for the clergy, contains the blessings and much information relating to this great devotion to Our Lady. It is one of the most comprehensive works written on the Rosary and should prove invaluable to all Rosarians acquainted with the French language.

Father T. D. Timpane, O. P., of Holy Rosary Convent, Minneapolis, Minn., has translated into English Balmes' "Evidences of Religion."

"St. Dominic and the Order of Preachers," by the Rev. John B. O'Connor, O. P., the well-known Dominican missionary, has gone into its second edition. Fr. O'Connor's splendid work has won popularity among Catholic readers, received most complimentary reviews and the second impression should sell as rapidly as the first.