

THE FRIAR'S BOOK-SHELF

Life of the Very Rev. C. H. McKenna, O. P., P. G. By the Very Rev. V. F. O'Daniel, O. P., S. T. M. The Holy Name Bureau, 871 Lexington Avenue, New York City. Pp. xiv-409. Price, \$2.

To us, as novices of the Order of Preachers, the late Father McKenna was more than a confrere; he was a companion and a guide to show us the way to attain the end of every Dominican's vocation—sanctification of self and burning zeal for the eternal welfare of our fellow-men. His life is our inspiration, and when we read what he did for the Church and his Order, our lagging steps are quickened to imitate him and further the noble work which he has begun. We are deeply grateful to Father O'Daniel for the masterful way in which he has portrayed the life of Father McKenna.

But, going outside the Dominican family, this "Life" will bring back to countless thousands many cherished remembrances of the "grand old man." Friends, penitents and all who came under Father McKenna's uplifting influence will find new causes for admiring the character of one who truly did shine as the sun in the temple of God, casting about him the bright rays of virtue; will find in him the fulfillment of the true ideal of every Friar Preacher—profound contemplation of God and His Divine truths and a ceaseless activity in the apostolic ministry.

B. A.

The Rosary. By Very Rev. J. T. McNicholas, O. P., S. T. M. American Ecclesiastical Review, October, 1917.

Although the Rosary is one of the most widespread of Catholic devotions and the one which makes the strongest appeal to all true lovers of our Immaculate Mother, yet, sad to say, but little is popularly known of its history and usage. This defect is now supplied by the present article. The essential parts of the Rosary, its vocal prayers, mysteries and meditations, are discussed in full, and naught of importance is left untouched. The public and private recitation of the Rosary and its different methods of recital are brought forward, laying particular stress on the fact that the daily recitation of this beautiful prayer is one of the surest means of sanctification. The article concludes with an explanation of the Rosary Confraternity and an enumeration of the many indulgences attached to the recitation of the Rosary. Rumor has said that this article is to be reprinted in pamphlet form. If true, let us hope that it meets with the appreciation it richly deserves.

Together with this paper on the Rosary, the October issue of the Review contains four others of interest, two on the new Codex of Canon Law and two on Preaching, important just now because of recent Papal legislation.

B. A.

Rose of Lima—A Study and Interpretation of Her Life. By Thomas M. Schwertner, O. P., S. T. Lr. The Rosary Press, N. Y. City. Pp. 64.

Among the books which have found their way to our shelf, none have given us more genuine pleasure in its perusal than this slender little volume. It is a very valuable addition to the present biographies of the Saint. The story of her life is narrated in such an attractive style that those who read the book cannot fail to become deeply influenced by her heroic virtue and gentle personality which the author has so beautifully portrayed. This study of St. Rose's life ought to be welcomed by

American Catholic readers as she is not only the first American saint but also the Patroness of this Western Hemisphere. The book is sure to have a wide circulation and is doubtless destined to arouse great interest in the Saint and to create in the hearts of American Catholics a lasting devotion to her. D. K.

The Dominicans in the Far East.

We were pleasantly surprised when the above-named book made its appearance at the House of Studies. It is the contribution of the Philippine Province of the Most Holy Rosary to the Seventh Centenary Celebration of the confirmation of our Order. Containing nearly four hundred pages and profusely illustrated, it relates the noble deeds of our Friars in the Philippines since their foundation in 1592, as well as the persecutions and martyrdoms suffered by them. A detailed account of their activities in China, Japan, and other territories which came under their influence is also appended. We congratulate our confreres of the Far East on their glorious past and wish them God's choicest blessing for their future efforts in carrying the bright light of Truth amongst those who still sit in the shadows of darkness. B. A.

Benedictus Qui Venit. A New Mass Book for Youth. By Father W. Roche, S. J. Longmans, Green & Co., New York. Pp. 76. Price, 30 cents net.

St. Augustine tells us that the man who wishes to live rightly must first learn to pray properly. And this is indeed true, for prayer is essential for the fulfillment of man's duty to God in this world. And if ever there was a time in the history of our nation when right living was absolutely necessary for the well-being, spiritual and material, of the American people, it is now during this period of great upheaval. Moreover, the moral cancer which has been afflicting society for decades cannot be eradicated in a day. Thus it is imperative that the prop of society of the morrow, our youth, should be grounded in the fundamental truths of Christianity and the principles of practical Christian living. For this their minds must be turned towards God and they must think of Him daily, weekly, yes, until He calls them to Himself.

The purpose of this very practical and devotional prayer-book is to aid youth to think about God and the eternal verities. The author follows the exact order and arrangement of the Missal, but his prayers are not of the Missal. They are whole-souled, very simple, yet sublime communings with the Eucharistic King and can be grasped by all. The little book centers about the very heart of Catholic worship, the Mass. It is a stepping stone to higher considerations of the Christian life and will help the youth to acquire such a true and wholesome appreciation of practical piety as will enable him in the contest to live rightly. E. H.

The Path of the Destroyer. By A. A. St. M. Mouritz, Honolulu, Hawaii. Pp. 424.

This volume, which is a history of leprosy in the Hawaiian Islands, was very kindly sent to Dominicana by Bro. Joseph Dutton, a subscriber to our publication, who is rendering such Christ-like service to suffering humanity at the famous Molokai Settlement.

This work is the first attempt by an American to treat this vital subject. In it the author proposes a new theory for the cause and spread of that dread disease which he calls "mouth infection." He asserts that he has arrived at this conclusion after research work of thirty years.

Dr. Mouritz was formerly physician to the Leper Settlement, Molokai. He does not pretend to cover the entire field of leprosy, but deals only with the historical, ethnical, etiological and superficial phases of pathology.

The Doctor divides the volume into five parts. Part I treats of the history of leprosy in Hawaii, the climates and diseases of the island, leprosy in India, Biblical and European, Ethical phases, Extinction and Segregation. The agents alleged to spread leprosy are considered in Part II. In Part III, which is given over to personal reminiscences, is found some intensely interesting matter. In this part is given, besides an account of the efforts of the heroic Fr. Damien, a report submitted by the priest himself to the Board of Health. It is an autobiography of the great priest's work among the lepers. Accounts of the labors of other self-sacrificing and courageous servants of God, priests and sisters, are also narrated. Part IV consists of reports on leprosy thirty years ago, and in Part V we are made acquainted with the laws relating to this scourge of humanity. This volume is profusely and handsomely illustrated, containing four maps and sixty-nine illustrations, colored and plain.

The language of the author is mostly non-technical. His purpose in writing this book is to lead the peoples of Hawaii and other places from the "shades of darkness" in regard to leprosy and to save them from the jaws of death. His case is put in a simple, pleasing and convincing manner. He is to be sincerely congratulated upon the splendid work and the very excellent manner in which it has been presented to the public.

We are very grateful to Bro. Joseph Dutton for favoring us with a copy. We shall highly prize it both for the information given and because of its donor.

E. H.

The Dominicans in History. By Thomas M. Schwertner, O. P. The Rosary Press. Pp. 70.

The timely appearance of the brochure entitled "The Dominicans in History," from the pen of Thomas M. Schwertner, O. P., will be received with delight by his many friends. It requires no wide acquaintance with the writings of Father Schwertner to recognize that he is an authority on religious history, and especially on the history of his own Order. Graceful in style, logical in its arrangement, and with the setting forth of "Truth" conspicuously its aim, "The Dominicans in History" will, if it meet with the success which it deserves, do much in forming a correct idea of the important role which the Dominican family has played in the history of the Church and of the world. A. P.

Solution of the Great Problem. By the Abbe Delloue. Translated from the French by E. Leahy. Frederick Pustet Company, New York City. Pp. v-279. Price, \$1.25.

The Great Problem of which the author writes—the how, the why and the whither of human existence—is one which knocks for answer at every human heart. The materialist, the pantheist, the deist and the theist, each in his own particular way proposes a solution. But the Christian philosophy of life—and by that we mean the Catholic—based as it is on the truths of revelation, alone contains the principles which can satisfy all the exigencies of our nature. This is what Abbe Delloue in the present volume endeavors to prove. His arguments are fundamentally traditional; but they are presented in a manner adapted to the present state of scientific research and to the peculiar needs of the age.

His style is easy and attractive, his reasoning, cogent and convincing; and his knowledge of philosophy and theology thorough and profound. The book suffers nothing in the translation. It is, we feel sure, a valuable addition to our library of popular apologetics. C. McC.

The Seminarian: His Character and Work. By Rev. Albert Rung. P. J. Kenedy & Sons, New York. Pp. 182. Price, 81 cents, net.

We earnestly hope that this splendid little book will reach a great many of those for whom it was written—our clerical students for the priesthood. While its primary appeal is, perhaps, to the diocesan seminarian, no religious aspirant to priestly Orders will take up this book without profit; and every clerical reader will utter a fervent *Deo gratias* for the privilege of having read it, and a prayer that he may make concrete its ideals in his own life.

The title of the book is well chosen—it tells precisely the theme of the author. A few of the chapters are named to show the scope of the work: Vocation; The Seminary; Prayer; Obedience; Clerical Modesty; Study; Bodily Care; Seminary Spirit.

Its brevity, terseness, completeness, its absolute lack of "preachiness," its practicability and wholesome spirituality, combine to make "The Seminarian" an unusually attractive book. J. McM.

Conferences for Men. By Rev. Reynold Kuehnel. J. F. Wagner, New York. Pp. 279. Price, \$1.50 net.

This book is a series of conferences delivered before the Holy Name Society of the author's parish. It is the finest thing of its kind that we have seen. There are fifty-two conferences in all, and while each is complete in itself, there is a link of connection which runs through the book. This connecting link is the life and example of St. Joseph—a fitting model surely for the Holy Name man! "A saint," indeed, as Father Kuehnel says, "whose sterling qualities make him fit especially into our times; whose life and work reveal to us the only solution of the vexing problems and questions of our day." The conferences cover a wide range of subjects—Faith, Socialism, Economics, Morals, Minimum Wage, Duties of State, Education, Men in the Catholic Home, Cultivation of Habits, Will, "The Pocketbook," The Man of Faith, of Prayer, of Honor. Each talk is about fifteen hundred words in length. Simplicity, strength, popularity and eloquence characterize every conference—and they are all eminently practical.

Holy Name Directors, for whom the conferences were published, will find the book a real inspiration. J. McM.

A Handy Companion for Soldiers and Sailors. By a Vincentian Father. H. L. Kilner and Co., Philadelphia. Pp. 105.

"No man can serve his country who fails to serve his God." As the former is best secured by furthering the cause of the latter, this book will be an immense help to those of our Catholic men who are called to the colors. Bound in khaki cloth and of a convenient size ($2\frac{3}{4} \times 4\frac{1}{2}$ inches) it should form a most important part of the equipment of every Catholic soldier and sailor. It resembles the familiar prayer books for young men in its general make-up, but contains only the essential and necessary prayers suitable for Mass, Confession, Communion and the Daily Prayers. In price it ranges from the khaki-covered, at ten cents, to that bound in Egyptian seal at one dollar. It fits the pocket and the pocketbook. B. A.

Lucky Bob. By Father Finn, S. J. Benziger Brothers. Pp. 248. Price, \$1.00.

This recent production from the pen of Father Finn upholds his reputation as a writer of stories for boys. "Lucky Bob" does not contain a page which will be skipped by any reader. The author's power to paint word pictures is most clear and concise. The hero, Bob Ryan, is so presented that the reader will find himself under the spell of his sympathetic, jolly and winning personality. Sunshine and happiness make their appearance whenever Bob presents himself. He is idolized by the children, and every animal is his willing servant. Bob's hardships, but especially his good fortune in his effort to make his own way in the world, make the book intensely interesting. It is a splendid offset to the cheap novels and "movies" which are attracting young boys today. At least every Catholic boy should read "Lucky Bob." The wonderful care of Divine Providence is evident in the hero's adventures. The author promises to show how this continued in a future account of Bob's experiences. We anxiously await the reappearance of lucky Bob Ryan in our midst.

I. S.

Sponsa Christi, Meditations for Religious. By Mother St. Paul. Longmans, Green and Company, New York City. Pp. xv-112. Price, 90 cents net.

Our Sisterhoods will extend a hearty welcome to this little treatise on the spiritual life. It is from the pen of one of themselves—from one who lives their life and understands it in all its most intricate details. Mother St. Paul is therefore a capable guide to those of her own sex in particular, along the narrow, thorn-strewn way leading to their Spouse in Heaven. The book embraces all the important and outstanding features of the religious life and is complemented by a treatise on the Mass as it identifies the Spouse of Christ to Himself sacrificed for her on Calvary. In fact, this is the dominating thought carried throughout the whole book. The religious is shown how the vows, the rule, charity, silence, and the divine office all, tend to bring her in a closer and more intimate union with Jesus. Every action is to be referred to Him, and nothing is to be done without first consulting Him.

Priests and male religious also will find inspiration in this book to help them in their own meditations.

B. A.

Luther and Lutherdom. By the Rev. Henry Denifle, O. P. Translated by the Rev. Raymond Volz, O. P. Bureau of the Holy Name Society, 871 Lexington Ave., New York City. Price per volume, \$3.50.

This translation of Fr. Denifle's exhaustive and monumental work: "Luther und Luthertums," is most timely. Protestants are now celebrating the fourth centenary of Luther's revolt from his obedience to the Catholic Church, and this work is of the greatest value in exposing the real character of Luther and the religious system which he inaugurated. Vol. I, Part I is now published and the other volumes will follow soon.

B. A.

Sermon Notes. By the late Monsignor Robert Hugh Benson. Edited by the Rev. C. C. Martindale. Second Series, Catholic. Longmans, Green & Co., New York. Pp. 138. Price, \$1.25 net.

We regret that this book, published in excellent style, reached us after all matter for this issue had gone to press. We feel sure, however, that the reputation of the renowned author will win for it a most cordial welcome, especially among the countless lovers of anything Bensonian.

E. H.