



The Parables of Christ. By V. Rev. Charles Callan, O.P., Consulor of the Pontifical Biblical Commission. Pp. 496. Jos. F. Wagner, New York. \$3.00.

Centuries ago a Man walked about Palestine, preaching the glad tidings of salvation to people of all classes of life. He preached openly to the world, on hill-tops, in synagogues where all the Jews gathered, in the Temple, and in secret He spoke nothing. Great crowds flocked after Him to see and hear this Wonder-worker Who spake as no man before or after ever spake.

This Man was, of course, Jesus. He was the God-Man. His mission on earth was to give testimony to the Truth. And since God is a tender Father who is most solicitous for His children, this Truth of His was to be proposed to them in a manner best adapted to be understood by them. That is the meaning behind the brief remark of St. Mark: And without parable he did not speak unto them (iv, 34).

From this it might be inferred that Jesus had introduced an entirely new manner of teaching, namely, by parable. This is not true. Parables were known to the ancient Greeks and were much used by them. Aristotle employed the parabolic form of teaching to argue against democracy. But it remained for Jesus to inject a new power into the parable, to use it to teach supernatural truths of infinite profit for men's souls, and since His time His parables have been at once the object of admiration and imitation. Many a phrase culled from His preaching has become a by-word in our language: "The lilies of the field" . . . "the birds of the air" . . . "Salt of the earth," etc. But it is principally His parables that remain fixed in the memory. No man who has once heard them can forget the parables of the sower and the seed, the fishing-net, the laborers in the vineyard, the Pharisee and the Publican, the lost sheep, the prodigal son, the ten virgins. But many a man would willingly inquire more deeply into the meaning of these parables, and the means for this further inquiry is now at hand, in English.

In this, his latest book, Fr. Callan treats of fifty-six parables of Christ. In a very clear and scholarly fashion he has treated each of the parables in the following manner: first—and this is of great im-

portance—he describes the time and place in which each was given; secondly, he discusses the image or illustration used. This, too, is important, because images and illustrations were drawn from a manner of life quite different from our own, and consequently need explanation. Thirdly, the way in which the image or illustration should be applied to the teaching of the parable is clearly set forth. Fourthly, particular words or phrases, which were crystal clear to Christ's hearers but which are wholly foreign to our comprehension, are discussed and translated into modern terminology. And finally the more obvious lessons which may and should be drawn from the parables are set forth.

It is obviously quite impossible to give a satisfactory account in a modest book-review of the satisfying manner in which Fr. Callan has applied the above formula to the fifty-six parables. The parables of Christ speak for themselves, but their voice becomes utterly persuasive when one is familiar with the details of their construction and the land of their origin. These details are found in abundance in this book.

That such a work as the *Parables of Christ* has long been desired by English speaking people is amply proved by the fact that three weeks after its appearance, the first printing was exhausted, and another larger printing was ordered. T.A.M.

Word-Hoard. By Margaret Williams. 459 pp. Sheed & Ward, New York. \$4.00.

Most men are too preoccupied with the needs of the present. As far as they are concerned the past is something best forgotten and the future will take care of itself. It is the urgency of the moment that demands attention. However, there are people who do find the past an interesting study. These are the scholars. Scholars, such as Mother Margaret of Manhattanville, see in the misty days of the past the slow moulding of the future. They catch in the past some glimpses of similarity between those clouded years and the present day. History repeats itself, and, in a sense, so does literature. What Mother Margaret has found is the fact that the cadences of our modern poetic metres are a living echo of Anglo-Saxon prosody. It well may be that if the forms of expression are so similar and sympathetic, our age may find in the old something that it is seeking. This much will the modern reader gather from a study of *Word-Hoard* that the ancient poets were forgers of expressive phrases; that they could tell an interesting tale; that they felt poetry in their souls.

Mother Margaret came well prepared for the task of arranging this "treasury of Old English Literature." She has a literary and scholarly background. Her father is Michael Williams, well-known author and former editor of *The Commonweal*. Her early days were spent at Carmel-by-the-Sea, then a literary colony, in California. She studied at Oxford, receiving her degree in English Literature with First Class Honors in 1935. Since her return to this country she has been teaching English at Manhattanville. She has been encouraged by the response of the students to Old English Literature. For this reason she has compiled the present volume.

The arrangement of this "treasury" is admirable. The writings include works ranging from the sixth to the eleventh centuries. These fragments are so well ordered and so neatly joined (Mother Margaret seems to have acquired the vigor and pointed power of expression from her close study of the period) by the compiler that the whole of the work seems present to the reader. As we are gradually led to the knowledge of the whole, so, too, we begin to imagine how the people of that age felt and thought and the history of the period begins to come closer to the present.

In history books these years before the coming of the Conqueror are known as the Dark Ages. A careful reading of the literature of those dark days might lead to a different conclusion. There was a radiance there that came from the Faith which happened upon an old idealism and sublimated without destroying it. The epic of *Beowulf* was preserved by monks. ". . . it was precisely in the cultivated atmosphere of the monasteries where the change was brought about that old legends lingered longest and in their finest form . . ."

This is a magnificent work. People who want to know how the early inhabitants of the misty island called England spoke and felt will find the answer in these pages. William Lyons Phelps has written, "I envy her pupils. I wish she could have taught me this subject when I was young enough to understand it." She can teach all of us this subject through this book. Indeed, this is not a textbook. It has all the merits of a textbook, without any of the textbook's formidability.

P.M.

Dominican Saints. By the Novices. With an introduction by the Very Reverend T. S. McDermott, O.P., S.T.Lr. St. Joseph's Priory, Somerset, Ohio. 439 pp. \$2.25.

There is no lack of material on the Dominican saints. Around the turn of the century, an English Dominican nun brought out *Short*

Lives of the Dominican Saints. This work was arranged by months; the saints and blessed in each month were written up briefly and the prayer of the day was added. Of necessity these lives were extremely short. Several of the saints have been written about at length. There are several lives of St. Dominic. Of these Jarrett's and Mother Drane's are well-known. St. Catherine of Siena and St. Thomas Aquinas have been found worthy of great pens. In England C. M. Antony had attempted a series on each Dominican. In our own country Fr. Schwertner took St. Raymond of Pennafort and St. Albert the Great for the subjects of two of his works. Only recently the masterful French hagiographer, Henri Ghéon, brought the wonder-worker of Spain, St. Vincent Ferrer, into the public eye. The list could be extended, but this seems to be sufficient evidence to prove the truth of the opening sentence.

About twenty years ago, the Novices of St. Joseph's Province brought out a volume *The Lives of the Dominican Saints*. This book was a sort of in-between volume. It was a great deal more full than the *Short Lives*, but not quite so extensive as the books on the individual saints. At the time it filled a need for just that type of book. It eventually was sold out and no second edition was printed until now. There has been a growing tide of requests for a reprinting of the book. But this new edition is more than a reprinting. The book has been carefully revised, many of the biographies have been abridged and the best available sources have been employed to insure factual accuracy. The advantage in having such a volume is that here are gathered together all of the Dominican saints. A reading of each life is a matter of some time under an hour. For a fuller treatment of the saint, a selective bibliography is given at the end of each chapter.

Another important feature of the new edition is the life of St. Albert the Great. The sources for this life were the works of Fr. Wilms, O.P. and Fr. Schwertner, O.P. The format of the book has been changed considerably. The cover is very attractive, the binding is strong, and altogether it is less bulky than the early edition. In the first edition, Bishop Shahan closed his preface with these words, "Their very brevity, however, may add to their charm and induce many to read them; and, having read them, be led to read other and more exhaustive biographies of the same saints. In this way the reader will experience the rare pleasure of coming into contact with the indescribable charm of these great men and women, and through the irresistible eloquence of their example be moved to a greater appreciation of the good things which God reserves to those who love

and serve Him faithfully." No more fitting words can send this new edition on its way. R.D.

Characters of the Inquisition. By William Thomas Walsh. 301 pp. Kenedy, New York. \$3.00.

It is good strategy in a war to attack the enemy at his weakest point, in the place where he is known to be most vulnerable. In the perennial war that is waged on the Catholic Church these tactics have been used. But in this case the enemy intelligence service has been most unintelligent. What has been considered the exposed flank in the long line of the Church's history is the overemphasized Inquisition. The rancor and confusion that have risen up in modern times over the subject of the Inquisition are due in great part to a lack of unprejudiced historical sense and a misunderstanding or ignorance of Catholic principles. It is true that the Inquisition would not work today as it operated even in its golden age. But then, today is not yesterday. The vast amount of literature that has been written is predominantly detrimental to and an indictment of the Inquisition. It is not surprising that even many Catholics consider it as a horror of religion. But the Inquisition can stand analysis, as this excellent book discloses.

A book on the Inquisition coming from the pen of Dr. Walsh is almost to be expected. The author of *Isabella* and *Philip II* necessarily became intimately acquainted with this institution and must have realized too well the calumny which it has suffered at the hands of historians and writers of all types. His treatment of the subject is attractive and suggests that of H. Belloc in his *Characters of the Reformation*. By way of contrast and prefatory character Moses is proposed as the first Inquisitor, because he based his actions on the same principles of divine religion as the medieval Inquisitors, but even the most defamed of the latter never equalled the ruthlessness with which Moses attacked the enemies of God. Subsequent studies on the founder of the Inquisition, Gregory IX, and some of the more notable and representative Inquisitors General both French and Spanish are most excellent and interesting treatments of men who stood on an equal footing with any of the great men of their ages. There is also included a discussion of some of the more famous cases, such as the trial of Archbishop Carranza. The work concludes with "the man who gave the *coup de grâce* to the Spanish Inquisition," the calumniator Llorente.

There is no need to speak of the timeliness of a readable and scholarly Catholic book on the Inquisition. It is long overdue. In it the reader will find sufficient principles and facts about the Inquisition to defend it intelligently in a discussion rather than explain it away. Dr. Walsh admits there were some human mistakes and excesses in this institution. These were by no means general but attributable to individuals, certainly not, however, to those more defamed characters singled out by some, such as Torquemada and Ximenes. This book should stand between Isabella and Philip II as a worthy contribution to a true and realistic understanding of the period of the great ages of Spain. Those who would belittle the coercive arm of the Church as a mere medieval growth should be attentive to the pages which deal with the cancerous evils and dangers of modern society.

The author seems to have a habit of sprinkling his scholarly works with distracting peccadillos. Some which occur in the present volume were pointed out, for instance, in the review of *Philip II* by this publication and need not be repeated here. Dr. Walsh consistently speaks of the famous Melchor Cano. This renowned theologian is usually called Melchior and is so styled in the old editions of his works. When he says that Bernard Gui was elected Master General of his Order (p. 51) in 1311 he must have confused him with Bernard de Jusix who ruled from 1301-1303, since there was no elective chapter held in 1311. At any rate Bernard Gui is nowhere listed as a Master General.

N.H.

Come What May. An Autobiography. By Arnold Lunn. 348 pp. Little, Brown, Boston. \$3.00.

In days gone by, the pious pilgrim would write his "Itinerary to Jerusalem." In our times, when focal points are less unanimous, one sets down one's itinerary through life and calls it an autobiography. Mr. Lunn, having passed the half-century, is also entitled to snatch a rest by the wayside and jot down a few notes.

Mr. Lunn does not precisely gush books whose substance he manufactures from thin air. Rather he follows the wise adage: *Primo vivere, deinde philosophare*. He has lived and has the happy faculty of expressing what the world has done to Lunn, in a style clear, not devoid of wit, and pleasingly illuminated with persons and things that are real. Add to this a pleasant smattering of Greek, Latin and English verse appositely strewn, occasionally matched with a sentence of German or French, a facility fast disappearing in modern education. His use of Greek philosophy is felicitous, his passing reflections on our civilization often most profound and il-

luminating, not to say captivating. Last but not least, Lunn scans the involved and toiling human scene with the sublime, serene and incisive view of faith in God, refreshing after those sad and depressing human portraits which dare not extend the destiny of man above the stratosphere or beyond the year 2000.

Arnold Lunn became known to American Catholics with the story of his conversion, *Now I See*, and its sequel *Within That City*, both a rather magnificent finale to his previous book, *Roman Converts*, wherein he refutes the conversions of Newman, Manning, Chesterton and others, only to become himself entangled in the net of Peter.

A remarkable and original side of Lunn the *litterateur* is Lunn the skier and Alp-lover. The ivy of Oxford and the powder snow of the Jungfrau, the traditionally British amused calm at the Old World's most blood-curdling efforts and the burning solicitude for souls of the true Catholic, produce a rare combination, all angles of which are on display in *Come What May*. The Lunn's already began worrying about the world in the person of Mr. Lunn's grandfather, business man by necessity and preacher by preference. Mr. Lunn's father founds modern tennis and is thwarted by ill-health from becoming a missionary. Fruition seemed reserved for the son. He goes to Harrow and Oxford, in neither place leaving sleeping dogs lie. With his father he conducts pilgrims to the Levant and makes Swiss hotels safe for the English. He knows King Albert, founds ski races, sketches endearingly members of the Spanish blood royal, reviews realistically the Spanish war at which he was a reporter. Mr. Lunn has also a chapter on Notre Dame where he taught, and his compliments are not ~~the~~ most superficial Notre Dame has received. Mr. Lunn takes us to séances with Conan Doyle where mediums exude ectoplasm in a most disturbing way, which introduces us to the theological and controversial side of Mr. Lunn. Two chapters are a grimly logical attack on our modern gullible rationalism by Mr. Lunn of the truly rationalistic faith. This is an admirable side of Mr. Lunn, this annoying and persevering love for controversy in a society where people avoid living up to the truth by politely declining to argue about it.

Yet he seems at his best in his more factual chapters and some of his anecdotes will probably woo undiscursive minds far more than his arguments. What bends the heart more confidently to the eternal indestructibility of the human soul than the account of the condemned Spanish colonel who remarked to his companion that they had been deprived of an half-hour of heaven by the Republican firing-squad which arrived late to execute them?

One might compare Mr. Lunn's autobiography with that of Axel Munthe. The latter is pathetic as its author gradually fails in his Villa San Michele on Capri, and despairingly contemplates the ultimate corruption of man. Mr. Lunn has the same inquiring outlook on humanity, the same strange experiences, he even has a chapter on an Italian villa, San Remigio, and there muses on the march of all things to the grave. But he does not despair or stoically resign himself. He has the Christian's proud, triumphant confidence, nay certitude, in ultimate victory, and his book ends on this exultant note in his last chapter on the war in England. Mr. Lunn has something of Cyrano: he dares to be chivalrous and true when it "isn't done." Hence his adventures. Yet our hero is human enough to evoke imitation as well as admiration, whether it consists in buying a pair of skis or challenging the next atheist one meets. Come what may, Mr. Lunn makes life worth living.

H.C.

Life and Work of Prince Demetrius Augustine Gallitzin. By the Rev. Peter Henry Lemcke, O.S.B. Translated by the Rev. Joseph C. Plümpe, Ph.D. xxi-257 pp. Longmans, New York. \$2.50.

The growth and development of the Church in the United States is replete with thrilling chapters of heroic patience, persevering labor, and personal courage. And we do not have to look far back to our missionary origin. There, we find that the creation of Catholic colonies was the result of hard work and united action and usually under the leadership of one man, the priest. One admires the pioneering spirit of the Catholic missionary who had to reckon, for the most part, on himself alone since the State, beyond granting freedom of conscience, provided nothing for his support. Occasionally we are given an intimate glimpse into this past to view the founding of a Catholic colony and to appreciate the life of the man behind the work. Such an occasion is now happily presented in the present *Life and Work of Prince Demetrius Augustine Gallitzin*.

Prince Gallitzin was born a Russian aristocrat, the son of the ambassador to The Hague. He, together with his mother, the Princess Amalia von Gallitzin, and sister, was a convert to the Catholic faith. Soon after his conversion, in 1792, he journeyed to America. This voyage replaced the customary *grand tour*, made impossible because of the disorders which accompanied the French Revolution. Arriving in America, he shortly afterwards met Bishop John Carroll, America's first Catholic Bishop, and resolved to become a priest and to labor among the poorer settlers in America. Within three years he was ordained a priest, the first to receive all the Orders in the

United States. And in less than five years Prince Gallitzin was on the scene of his life's work, the western frontiers of Pennsylvania, where he founded the Catholic colony of Loretto. A pioneer in the true sense of the word, before the high romance of his life was done, he already merited for himself the title of "the Apostle of the Alleghenies." A unique character, somewhat eccentric on the lovable side, courageous and ardently sincere, Prince Gallitzin was loved and highly respected by his parishioners. He lived the lonely life of a pioneer priest for over forty years and truly gave his life for his devoted flock.

This present work honors the centennial year of the death of Prince Gallitzin. It must be recognized as the definitive biography. Originally written in German in 1861, twenty-one years after his death, it is his first biography. His biographer, Father Lemcke, the missionary companion and friend who lived close to him in his last years, was well equipped to write the story of Father Gallitzin's life. Lemcke was close to the still-living tradition and also had access to many written records. These, together with abundant personal observations, form a unique biography. It is a rambling story, perhaps, but a faithful record and an excellent addition to our pioneer Catholic history.

The translator, Father Plumpe, has done his work well. His footnotes, supplementary to those of Father Lemcke, give evidence of much painstaking research. Besides containing an adequate index, the book also has a complete bibliography of works consulted by the translator in preparing the book for its English garb. All in all, this biography, timely for the centenary of "the Apostle of the Alleghenies," is a choice of the Catholic Book Club and deserves an easily accessible place in every Catholic library. J.M.R.

By Jacob's Well. By the Most Rev. James Leen, C.S.Sp. Translated from the French by the Rev. Edward Leen, C.S.Sp. 419 pp. Kenedy, New York. \$3.50.

The name "Leen" on a spiritual book has become a sort of guarantee of excellence. This volume was written by the Most Rev. James Leen, C.S. Sp., Archbishop-Bishop of Port Louis, Mauritius, and has been translated from the original French by the author's brother, the eminent author in his own right, the Rev. Edward Leen, C. S. Sp.

The book is based on conferences given to the priests and nuns of Bishop Leen's diocese which is French in culture, tradition and language. Hence the French of the original work although the author is Irish by birth. The conferences are arranged for a full retreat of

ten days with three conferences for each day. In his twenty-six conferences the author has treated the important basic truths of faith, truths which taken in their fullness constitute infallible guide posts to successful religious living. Here is no sentimentality but the sound doctrine of the Church. The book is not the type most people would go into for relaxation—but then neither is a retreat, properly made, relaxation. Bishop Leen gives ample evidence of his own broad spiritual vision, his deep understanding of the human heart but one is impressed by the manner in which he remains in the background in order to give prominence to the inspired words of Sacred Scripture.

We recommend the book particularly for those who make private retreats and who seek solid doctrine, devoid of novelties—the “one Truth that is Jesus crucified.” Father Edward Leen is to be commended for an excellent translation. M.S.

Splendor and Strength of the Inner Life. By Doctor Fr. Mack. Translated from the German by Sister Mary Aloysi Kiener, S.N.D. 190 pp. Pustet, New York. \$2.00.

Mary in Our Soul Life. By Raoul Plus, S.J. Translated from the French by Sister Mary Bertille, S.N.D., and Sister Mary St. Thomas, S.N.D. 152 pp. Pustet, New York. \$1.75.

Both these fine works on the spiritual life have been translated by members of the same community, in fact, of the same College. In each case the translator has done her work well for these books have been rendered into a clear, idiomatic English.

Doctor Mack, who is the Director of the Episcopal Institute of Luxemburg, presents us with a work which has been divided into four books rather than chapters. This peculiar division seems based on the author's words that “Each individual division is an independent whole.” Throughout the work the emphasis is on the Blessed Sacrament of the Altar, under both its sacramental and sacrificial aspects for one who seeks to follow the Savior and who has received the Sacrificial Food in Holy Communion. The next two books consider the relation between the Cross and penance and the Interior Life. With a return from the Bloody Sacrifice on the Cross the attention is focused on the Unbloody Sacrifice of the Altar and the Heavenly Manna whereby our weary souls are nourished. The final book depicts the intimate relation between the Precious Blood and the summit of Christian life, the call to Virginity. The author shows the importance of the Precious Blood for us, for we need It as a source

whence to draw the strength necessary to cultivate the virtues of the Christian Life.

Père Plus considers in his work the role of the Blessed Virgin as Our Mother. The book falls into a natural division through a comparison with our own mothers. They gave us our life, our example, and their ever-vigilant care over us. So with Mary. She begot us in the suffering of Calvary and of all the years of anticipated grief that succeeded Her submission to the Divine Will. Hence, we should have a special love and devotion for Mary's Seven Sorrows. Mary presented us with the greatest example of holiness we have. Through Her example we should be led to strive for greater sanctity. Just as we have striven to imitate the perfections of our own mothers. Just as our natural mother hastens to our side in our troubles, so, too, does Mary, the Comforter of the Afflicted, the Mediatrix of all Graces. In this section the author considers Mary and the Scapular and Rosary. Here, it is refreshing to find that centuries-old tradition of the giving of the Rosary to St. Dominic reaffirmed, while the place of Alan de la Roche is recognized as the restorer of the devotion after it had fallen into disuse. In the final part of the book the author considers the homage which the sons and daughters of Mary have paid her through the ages.

In these two books by natives of invaded nations we can glimpse the spirit which must penetrate society, already tottering. The spirit of Christian sacrifice, not Spartan, united with the Daily Sacrifice of the Altar and universal devotion to Mary will bring us that peace which all desire and restore democracy to a firm base. We heartily recommend both these books.

M.M.S.

On the Place of Chesterton in English Letters. By Hilaire Belloc. 84 pp. Sheed & Ward. New York. \$1.00.

About 1933 a painting was exhibited at the Royal Academy in London by an artist named H. James Gunn. It excited a burst of comment among litterateurs because it was a painting of England's three outstanding literary figures. The title of the work was: "Hilaire Belloc, G. K. Chesterton and Maurice Baring: A Conversation Piece." Now these three are together again, not captured by a picture's frame, but within the panels of a book. This book on Chesterton by Belloc is dedicated to Baring.

As essays go, this is on the lengthy side; as books go, it falls into that category known as the "slender volume" class. Slender though it may be, it is an important contribution to Chestertoniana. Only an artist can evaluate an artist, and this evaluation of the lit-

erary worth of Chesterton's stream of words comes from the hand of an equally great artist in the art of words. These comments can be heeded and followed because Belloc is qualified to write them. Belloc stands front and center among the living writers today, forceful and vigorous as ever. And he knew and loved Chesterton. If we use the guidance of a master, we cannot help but find the gold of the important writings of Chesterton in poetry and prose.

Belloc tabulates six main points for the survival of Chesterton's works. Briefly they are: 1) He was *national*; 2) He had extreme precision of thought; 3) He had a unique capacity for parallelism; 4) His work was built on a structure that was deeply and widely literary; 5) He had charity; 6) The chief matter of his life was his acceptance of the Faith. The bulk of the essay is taken up with the development and expansion of these points with here and there selections from the prose or poetry of G. K. C. brought in to prove some statement.

Lovers of Chesterton will treasure this key to the richness of their literary vault of learning. Belloc's logical piercing of the roots of greatness in the greatest of contemporary writers is a marvel in itself. There has been a flood of books and articles on or about Chesterton, but this slender volume about the great man will top them all.

A.M.R.

Wonder-world of the Soul. By a Sister of Notre Dame de Namur. 180 pp. Kenedy, New York. \$1.50.

This book has come from the pen of the author of *Lucent Clay*, *Vigil*, and *Vine and Branch*. To them it is a worthy addition. Yet, it is not an original work. Rather, it is a compendium of the best passages from the recognized masters of the spiritual life culled by the author in her spiritual reading. In this volume you will find golden nuggets of heavenly wisdom gathered from the rich minds of favored souls. Here are selections from St. Teresa of Avila, The Little Flower, St. Elizabeth of the Trinity, St. John of the Cross, St. Thomas Aquinas, Dom Chapman, Karl Adam, Father Faber, Dom Marmion and many others, some well-known, others less popularly known. To these the author has added many spiritual reflections of her own.

These passages are grouped under six general headings: The Soul, Suffering, Obedience, Prayer, Charity, Progress, and The King. This handy feature provides convenient reference for preachers, lecturers, and writers.

The book will be popular chiefly with religious, clerics, and lay-

people who attend to the needs of their souls. All who read it will gain a reward in proportion to the sympathy of their reading.

It is the book that many religious and priests have been desiring. If you are one of those—whose number is legion—who have intended to write down and preserve the striking passages found in your spiritual reading, but seldom or never have, and then later regretted your lack of industry and procrastination, then this is the book you want.

It can be used as a private meditation book. Each selection will evoke deeply hidden thoughts and start formation of new ones. Preachers and lecturers will find it serviceable in supplying quotations from recognized authorities in the spiritual life.

It is not a book to be placed on a library shelf. It is a book for personal daily use. For the religious or cleric, it is an ideal gift book.

J.B.S.

The Silence of the Sea and Other Essays. By Hilaire Belloc. 253 pp. Sheed & Ward, New York. \$2.50.

If you like to have yourself mentioned in print, or at least your opinion, whether you be historian or traveller, booster or sociologist, or anything, for that matter, in this book you will find yourself considered. The joviality of the tone in most of the essays may seem irreverent to the gravity of your ideas, but you will be pleasingly agreed with or quite soundly disagreed with.

The variety of subjects and the clarity of opinions on them make the reading of this book seem like contact with an intelligent and outspoken friend, commenting on life as it goes by.

To give the titles of the essays would not suffice. They are sometimes interestingly misleading. You may think *The Silence of the Sea* means the quiet that is occasion for thought. But the author is literal. He speaks of the sea as a majestic person, silent in its own thoughts. Man is left out; is considered an intruder. Mr. Belloc says *Bunyan*, and then gives his own criteria for a great book. Under the title *Walter Scott*, he brings the historical novel on the carpet; says it is "much more creative than modern criticism allows."

Whatever others may think, to me the best of the essays is *Permanence*. It is more than confidence in the permanence of "a way of life." There is a deep, positive assurance flowing from a consideration of the permanence of the universe and the eternal law. It is a hopeful minimizing of war and the sorrows of men; for these things are so small, so helpless to effect the great permanent changes: days and nights, summers and winters, and the peasants planting and then the fall of leaves, the rising of a generation, its passing and its

renewal, and out beyond all these the solemn circling of the Heavens—these are a foundation for the mind.” And in the final words there is the hope for quiet again: “. . . the immemorial hills, the deep woods, and the quiet rivers shall return.”

To read this book is to have a great and happy mind tell you of history and literature, religion and sociology—speaking of big problems in miniature and of small things in their greater meaning—most of it in a personal, genial and, sometimes, jovial style. P.C.

Social Wellsprings. Edited by Joseph Husslein, S.J., Ph. D. 284 pp. The Bruce Publishing Co., Milwaukee. \$2.50.

To the distinguished sociologist and General Editor of the Religion and Culture Series, we are indebted for this collection of fourteen encyclical letters of Pope Leo XIII dealing with social questions, several of which have been inaccessible for the ordinary reader. Several years ago the late Father Thomas Schwertner, O.P., wrote: “There is too much of the theatrical in describing our social plight, too much that is vague in prescribing a cure, too much of the smell of the laboratory and clinic room in all our economic and sociological discussion . . . We do need to know the simple truth simply. And our attempt to attain that knowledge explains the form and method of the social lessons we would read our age, suffering as it is from academic overmedication on the one hand and a sad lack of practical instruction and honest guidance on the other.” Those social lessons are here collected in one volume, a “basic library of social literature which can be placed within the reach of everyone.”

Catholic Sociologists have long recognized that modern social evils have their roots sunk deeply in false philosophies and individual moral failures. The antidote must reach down into the hearts of individual men thence to rise through human societies, beginning with the basic society, the family. None knew this better than Leo XIII and surely he must have carefully planned the invaluable series of encyclicals which begins with the theme that “civilization can have no firm foundation unless it rests upon the eternal principles of truth and the unchangeable laws of right and justice; and that to these must be added a true Christian charity, which alone can bind together the wills of men and sweetly harmonize their mutual relations and duties.” It is a matter of regret that Catholics themselves have so long been unaware of the treasure house of social teaching contained in the encyclical letters of Leo XIII. His *Rerum Novarum* has at last received the attention it deserves, thanks to the efforts of Pope Pius XI and, in this country, to the Pastoral Letter of the Bishops of

the United States issued some twenty years ago. The other encyclicals have been generally ignored.

This in itself, aside from the splendid work done by the Editor and by the publishers, is adequate reason for welcoming the present volume. The rights and duties of individual men, of families and of nations—all are here clearly depicted and those unfamiliar with the work of Pope Leo XIII will marvel at the wisdom and vision that half a century ago could foresee and diagnose the evils which afflict the world today—individual, social, economic and political—and which prescribed remedies which, taken in time, would have spared our generation much of the suffering that tries the souls of men. Leo saw clearly the fallacies of Socialism and of the false Liberalism against which Socialism was a reaction. In his little-known encyclical on the Abolition of African Slavery he foresaw the evils of racism, and Totalitarianism would not now afflict the world had the world of 1885 hearkened to his words in the letter *Immortale Dei*. It is most opportune that this important book should appear now when men so sadly need guidance.

H.M.

Jesus as Men Saw Him. By Martin J. Scott, S.J. 224 pp. Kenedy, New York, N. Y. \$2.00.

Father Scott has chosen for his latest book a subject of great import to those living in this century who are in search of the leader of truth, Our Divine Lord. In a simple, clear and intelligible style he places the reader in the very presence of Our Divine Lord when He lived upon this earth. The reader by the forceful presentation of Father Scott's pen is able to catch a glimpse of the many qualities which were manifested by Our Divine Lord through His words and works.

This book may be divided into two parts. The first part considers the qualities of Jesus with respect to His character. The author does not penetrate into deep theological proofs but rather in simple fashion gives us a view of Jesus from the fruits of his study on the Scriptures and also by the apt quotation of numerous scriptural passages.

The second part of this book points out how many of these qualities found in Our Blessed Lord were practised by His saints. In connection with each virtue, a saint is chosen who practised this virtue in an eminent way and a short treatise is given on the life of the saint showing how he practised it. The purpose of this part of the book is to show us that the virtues, as found in Jesus can be practised and

that they have been practised by mortal man through the medium of Divine help.

The conclusion of the entire book is "the more that Jesus is known, the more will He be loved, and the better will be the individual man, as well as society and the world at large." This is an invitation, indeed more than invitation if we wish to be saved, for all men of all walks of life to heed in order "to be made the sons of God."

The work which Father Scott has produced is of great merit, for in a simple style the author has done all in his power to help us know more about Our Divine Lord. E.D.G.

Survival till Seventeen. By Leonard Feeney, S.J. 141 pp. Sheed & Ward, New York. \$1.50.

Among the accomplishments of Clifton Fadiman, it has been reported that he can read at the rate of 150 pages per hour. In that case he could whirl through *Survival till Seventeen*, take a deep breath and be well under way in another volume before the large hand completed its circuit. The question might arise: Why rush through a book like this? Too much might be missed. Fr. Feeney's style might pave the way for speed, but the subjects he chooses to write about just beg for leisurely rambling.

These are autobiographical essays, for the most part, as the subtitle, *Some Portraits of Early Ideas*, suggests. *The Voice* introduces us to Leonard, the "sweet lion"; thereafter Leonard takes over the task of introducing. Through him we meet all the people worth knowing in Lynn. There must have been many joyous Sunday evenings in that Puritan stronghold, when the Irish exiles warmed to their story-telling and musical entertaining. *Sunday Evenings* gives a clear picture of wholesome fun, and in this essay we see the emergence of a hero who could not entertain. Joe, the plumber, will take his place beside Uncle Willie of *Fish on Friday* fame. He is a character you cannot help remembering.

In *Lesson from the Little Mosquito* depths and heights are touched. The depths of pain are vividly portrayed and the height of humor is subtly reached. He writes, "There is an order of nuns in the Church known, one and all, as the Little Sisters of the Poor. But they do not weigh their postulants before receiving, nor send them reducing exercises so as to establish vocations." This comes up in explaining his fondness for the word *little*.

The essays on *Art*, *The Poets and the Mystics*, *Poetry* and *Childhood*, do not seem to fit in the picture of early ideas, unless there are thoughts that lie too deep for words in the mind of the

child, and it takes the adult hand to shape the formulation of these ideas at a later date. These essays are bright and as swift as lightning.

There are so many of these essays that demand quoting that it would be impossible to bring them all forward. However, there can be a compromise arranged. Here are a few of the characters: Mr. Wigglesworth, the grocer, who thinks, "The United States, my boy, is a nation of unripe bananas;" Clancy, the violinist, who has to be teased into playing, and then plays continuously for six hours. Mr. Feeney is a supersalesman in *Design for a Grecian Urn*. Then there are Alicia, the Imagination Guy, Wing Lee and dozens of others. They are fine people to meet and there's no bashfulness present when the "sweet lion" handles the introductions.

You must make room for this volume of joy on your book shelf. All may not read as swiftly as Fadiman, but once you read this book through, you'll put it aside only to revel in memories. T.L.

Homeward Bound. By Thomas B. Chetwood, S. J. 280 pp. Joseph F. Wagner, Inc., N. Y. \$1.75.

This latest volume from Father Chetwood's pen is a series of short tales portraying a variety of characters of our American scene. Herein are found people you may have rubbed elbows with only this morning on the avenue, in a bus or on the subway. The unifying thread that joins these stories is a consciousness of the Divinity that shapes our end, and the influence of religion on the lives and the activities of the characters.

The first story, *Jerry*, is a short biography of an incurably young priest. He throbs with energy from his seminary days until the day he dies. Father Jerry's youthful vigor and buoyant manner amaze everyone. As he strides through life his personality reaches out to young and old, rich and poor. His life affects such members of society as an unbelieving prize fighter, a calloused financier, an apostate priest and others; into their hearts he brings the tender spirit of Christ.

In swift succession the reader becomes acquainted with such varied types as an office clerk, a criminal, a waitress and several other interesting people. On all of these the tug of religion is revealed. *Mr. Nemo*, the Mr. Milquetoast of the stories, is one of the best tales in this volume. To all appearance his life is a monotonous routine. In reality it takes his death to show just how unmonotonous his life really had been. He was a great influence on many and his life had rich experiences. Regarded by his associates as an automaton, without a spark of the adventuresome in his make-up, several

contributions to his biography by his neighbors prove rather that he was a man of heroic virtue and great influence.

The tale of "Slug" Hibson is an account of a startling change in the demeanor of a criminal condemned to the chair for murder in connection with a burglary. Through the zeal of the prison chaplain, Father Baxter, and after many discussions and arguments about the life beyond the grave, Slug becomes a convert. This is a realistic and gripping tale of Slug, the hardened criminal who goes to confession and receives Holy Communion before he makes his way fearlessly along the "last mile."

Freda tells the story of a waitress in one of our big-town restaurants. She is unique among her sister-waitresses because of her unruffled nature. Though her tray-bearing associates are geared to the fast-moving tempo of their surroundings, Freda remains simple and unsophisticated. With her aged aunt, she ponders upon the Bible and becomes impressed by its wisdom and doctrine. Her attempts to convert her associates by texts on the frivolity of females meets only with ridicule. Mrs. Mullen, the cashier, noting Freda's interest in religion, takes her to a Catholic Church. After many visits and long meditations upon the verses of Holy Writ, Freda becomes a Catholic.

Altogether there are ten stories. They make interesting reading and as a whole are well written so that they should appeal to many.

J.W.

DIGEST OF RECENT BOOKS

GENERAL: **N.O.D.L.** are letters with which most Catholics are already familiar. This organization is not a government project, though it well might be. The second volume of **The Drive for Decency in Print** is the second annual report of the Episcopal Committee on the National Organization for Decent Literature. The volume contains reports not only on the scope and variety of the objectionable books, magazines and pictures, but also on the amazing technique of the filth-mongers. (Our Sunday Visitor Press).

Catholics who seek information on subjects pertaining to their faith at a moment's notice will appreciate **The National Catholic Almanac**. This book, now an annual event, contains 800 pages of the information you need. It is a worthwhile investment at a reasonable cost. (St. Anthony Guild Press, Paterson, N. J. \$0.75).

The National Catholic Library Association has put out **A Reading List for Catholics**. This stands as an important contribution to bewildered Catholic readers. At times the desire to read a Catholic book on a certain subject is frustrated because the person does not know if such a book exists. Now there is no need to say such a thing. Under the headings Philosophy, Religion, Science, Biography, etc., are gathered books by Catholic authors, as well as those of non-Catholics writing with a Catholic view point. Each section is headed by paragraph explaining why certain books were chosen. (America Press, N. Y. \$0.25).

We have received the official report of the eighty-fifth General Con-

vention of the **Catholic Central Verein of America** (the National Federation of German-American Catholics) held at New Ulm, Minn., from August 24th to 28th, 1940. The book contains exact accounts of each day's activity, reports of committees and the speeches delivered at the various sessions. Bishop Peschges, Bishop of Crookston, Minn., gave the sermon at the Pontifical High Mass which opened the convention. Catholic Action was stressed during the entire convention.

RELIGIOUS: Written in a most interesting fashion, this tiny volume, **Mother Seton's Favorite Devotions**, adds another note to the growing chant of praise for this great American woman. Extracts from Mother Seton's diary and scenes from her life are smoothly joined to show her love for and devotion to the Blessed Sacrament, Our Lady and the Saints. (Kenedy, N. Y. \$0.30).

Fr. Blakely's second volume of short reflections on the Sunday and Feast-day Gospels, **Then Jesus Said**, has come to our desk. Following the cycle of the liturgical year, the reader moves from Advent to the joyous Christmas season; from Lent to the glory of Easter and so through the year with the words of Christ ever before him. Careful attention to these words of Our Lord will reveal many hidden beauties. Fr. Blakely's guiding hand will prove a tremendous aid if the reader will study the Gospel, read the reflection, and then ponder silently within his soul. (America Press, N. Y. \$1.50).

In the field of devotional literature, Fr. Lasance's works hold a prominent place. His latest volume, **The Beatitudes**, will securely keep him in the front line of religious authors. This book is a beautiful piece of work both in matter and format. The thoughts and meditations conjured up by the Beatitudes, the abundance of selections from other authors on the golden rule of life, and the living example of the Beatitudes in the actions of the saints make this an important book for religious and laity alike. (Benziger, N. Y. \$1.25).

The *With God* series is now completed with the volume **Christ: Teacher and Healer** by Kilian J. Hennrich, O.F.M. This book embraces meditations on the teachings and miracles of Christ's public life. These reflections are bound to find a responsive chord in the reader's heart. The important phases of Our Lord's ministry are covered and the gems of beauty hidden in Christ's words are explained. The variety of chapter headings suggests the matter involved in these pages: Christ and St. John, the Baptist; The Marriage at Cana; Prayer; The Pharisees, and so on. (St. Anthony Guild Press, Paterson, N. J. \$1.00).

A revised and enlarged edition of **The Angel of Aquino** has been put out by St. Catharine's Press. This small volume was first published in 1887 by Henry M. Plugbeil, O.P., P.G. It has been done into English by the Faculty of St. Albertus College at Racine, Wisc. It contains all the extant prayers of St. Thomas Aquinas, his great hymns, meditations for assisting at Mass while praying the Rosary, the devotion of the six Sundays preceding his feast and the Angelic Warfare. In addition, there are no less than seventeen illustrations. (St. Catharine's Press, Racine, Wisc. \$1.25).

When we pray, we converse with God. Fr. Anthony Thorold's newest spiritual work is about prayer, whence he has called it **Conversation With God**. The chapters are brief, averaging about four pages, but they contain material enough to keep the average reader meditating for a week. The book is of a handy size, and may be slipped into an overcoat pocket without causing a wrinkle. Reading this book on prayer might serve as a substitute for the daily paper on the way to the office. It would then keep the mind on higher things at least for a portion of the day. (Sheed & Ward, N. Y. \$1.00).

The Divine Crucible of Purgatory by Mother Mary of St. Austin, revised and edited by Nicholas Ryan, S.J., is a work that presents beautiful meditation material on the sufferings and joys of the souls in Purgatory. The book is the result of an intense and profound study of the doctrines

of learned theologians concerning the purification of souls. Many will find this work interesting because of its practical treatment of a subject about which they should have a greater knowledge. (Kenedy, N. Y. \$2.25).

Daniel M. O'Connell, S.J., has already proven his ability to select the gold from the writings of Newman. This is a difficult task, when it is considered that nearly all of the great Cardinal's writings are golden. *Heart to Heart*, the first Cardinal Newman prayer book, received a warm welcome. Now the second collection of prayerful selections from the *Plain and Parochial Sermons* has been published under the title **Kindly Light**. The saintly Cardinal's beauty of expression is at its highest in these devotional and heart-lifting prayers. This volume was the January choice of the Spiritual Book Associates. (America Press, N. Y. \$2.50).

The tenth anniversary of the **Journal of Religious Instruction** is being celebrated this year. This journal, edited by Ellamay Horan, is published by De Paul University of Chicago. Its aim has been to help the teacher of Religion. This has been accomplished by the publication of articles by experts representing different schools of thought. The editorial board is composed of those men who are vitally concerned with religious problems and are suited to offer solutions for them.

SCRIPTURE: The reissue, at a reduced price, of **The New Testament**, translated from the Greek by the Very Rev. Francis Aloysius Spencer, O.P., brings joy to all who are eager for the resurrection of the ancient custom of reading the Scriptures. The reprinting of this volume shows that many have sought in this new translation the inspiration and spiritual food which we need in these days of growing paganism. Since the first edition sold at such a high price that many were prevented from buying it, the reduced price will open the way for many persons to buy this translation from the original Greek text. The modern language used by the translator compares favorably, on the whole, with our modern literature and will tend to bring the Scriptures more into line with our every-day thoughts and readings. The arrangement of the text into paragraphs with titles and sub-headings makes the volume more readable and entices the modern reader to spend many joyful hours with Our Lord and His Apostles. The translation is one of the most readable and intelligible for the ordinary reader that we have seen. We recommend it to all for greater benefit from the reading of the Scriptures. (Macmillan, New York. \$2.50).

POETRY: A thin volume of poems, **Streets in Nazareth**, by Gerald M. C. Fitzgerald, C.S.C., known to the reader of *Columbia* as the letter-writing Fr. Page, was published shortly before Christmas. There are four streets in Nazareth: Main Street, Mary's Street, Friend's Street and My Street. There is an even quality about these verses and a spirituality that is virile and never sentimental. The poet's pictures are cleverly drawn, rarely forced. He has an abundance of lines that could be quoted. The couplet closing the sonnet *First Christmas* is indicative of the poet's thought and technique:

"Not in such thunders as once shook Sinai,
But in a new-born Babe's first piteous cry."

John Leo Hendricken's illustrations add a note of finesse to these pages. The lover of religious verse will welcome this volume, and will soon become familiar with the happenings in the streets of Nazareth. (Kenedy, N. Y. \$1.50).

JUVENILE: The dictator now has become the "heavy" in a boys' novel, **The Lost Prince** by Don Sharkey. Tim Maloney meets the Prince on shipboard. The young blue blood is traveling incognito from his native Transyllia. A snob, at first, the Prince begins to lose this haughtiness after close association with Tim's family and friends. There are many

exciting moments for the Prince and Tim; the climax is reached when the Prince ousts the dictator, Mendelloff. Then he is enthroned as King Nicholas III amid the cheers of loyal supporters. (Benziger, N. Y. \$1.25).

Another book for boys relates **The Adventures of Tommy Blake** by Bro. Ernest, C.S.C. Here the conflict is between wealth and religion. Tommy's mother is a Catholic, his father is a wealthy atheist. Forced to leave their home because of the father's violent opposition to their faith, mother and son take up their living in a poor section of the city. The father kidnaps the boy, places him in a godless school. The boy, anxious to practice his religion, attempts to escape. After several unsuccessful ventures, he manages to break away. Picked up unconscious by the side of a country road, he is taken to a house where a sick man is being held prisoner by a swindler. The sick man is Tommy's father. On his death-bed, the father repents of his past life, and Tommy baptizes him before he dies. (St. Anthony Guild Press, Paterson, N. J. \$1.00).

There is also a book for girls, **Maureen O'Day, Songbird** by Irma Low. Maureen has been introduced to young readers before. The chapters of the present book whisk her through high school, to Boston for a recital and what seems the climax, to the stage of the Metropolitan Opera House in New York. The plaudits of the crowd cannot drown out the real vocation of the girl and the last chapter finds her bound for a convent in Kentucky. (Benziger, N. Y. \$1.25).

PAMPHLETS: **Study the Mass** is a rather large pamphlet by Dr. Pius Parsch. It is a synopsis of his larger volume, *The Liturgy of the Mass*. Dr. Parsch is recognized as an authority on things liturgical and has a large following of readers in this country. This pamphlet treats the history of the Mass, then each part of the Mass in particular. The chapters are followed by questions and suggestions so that Study Clubs and Groups will find it useful and practical. (Liturgical Press, Collegeville, Minn. \$0.25).

The estimated number of those who die during the course of the year is sixty million. **Do You Remember the Dying?** is a booklet which offers to the reader important information on how to help those who pass to eternity each day. It also points out how each one of us may prepare himself to make that all-important journey. (Sponsa Regis, Collegeville, Minn. \$0.10).

Third Orders have been organized to help the laity attain perfection. **Why the Third Order of St. Francis?** is an exposition by Conall O'Leary, O.F.M., of the wisdom of the Franciscan foundation, the many blessings placed upon it by the Pontiffs and its wide appeal. (St. Anthony's Guild Press, Paterson, N. J. \$0.05).

Frederick Ozanam and Social Reform by Alfred Williams shows in brief and concise language the technique of Ozanam, the influence of his work on social reform and the ideal of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. (St. Anthony Guild Press. \$0.05).

The following pamphlets have come from Our Sunday Visitor Press: **America and the Catholic Church** contains a series of four radio addresses by the Rev. J. J. Walde of Oklahoma City, delivered during August on the Catholic Hour. (\$0.15). **The Social Crisis and Christian Patriotism** is the title of the three broadcasts given by the Rev. John F. Cronin, S.S., on the position of Labor in the light of the title of this pamphlet. (\$0.15). **Missionary Responsibility** contains two addresses by Boston's missionary-minded Auxiliary Bishop, the Most Rev. Richard J. Cushing, on the part America should play in the propagation of the Faith. (\$0.10). **Are You Missing Something?** by the Rev. Albert H. Dolan, O.Carm., is an exposition of the meaning of the Sign of the Cross and a practical application of this great act of faith for the ordinary Christian. (\$0.05).