

THE FRIAR'S BOOK-SHELF

Commentarius In Epistolas ad Thessalonicenses. Auctore Fr. Jacobo Maria Voste, O. P., S. T. Lr., S. S. L. Pp. 305.

This is a critical commentary on the Epistles of the Thessalonians, by Fr. Voste, professor of New Testament Exegesis at the Collegio Angelico. It has won such high commendations from exegetes of renowned scholarship that we feel we should, in justice to the author, give two excerpts of foreign reviews and one from an contratulatory letter rather than offer any review of our own.

Fr. Lagrange, the eminent Dominican scripturist and theologian, says in the "Revue Biblique": "By this commentary, Fr. Voste takes his place among the best interpreters of the meaning of St. Paul. . . . The whole is treated with much precision and unmistakable exegetical skill. The author is steadfastly traditional but not to the point of sacrificing his originality. He takes into consideration the most recent works, especially in the domain of philology. He has treated of the Word of God as nourishment for souls and has introduced pious and useful quotations and reflections." He is pleased with the division, the arrangement and type.

The "Civiltà Cattolica," the well-known Roman publication of the Jesuits, says it is "solid, clear, convenient in size, appropriately and distinctly divided," critical and yet prudent, thoroughly Catholic and scholarly.

Very Rev. Fr. Frey, C. S. Sp., Consultor of the Biblical Commission, in a congratulatory letter writes: "Your work is a model of Catholic exegesis of which I am proud, as a Catholic and a priest. In reading it, one experiences that profound joy and complete contentment which the contemplation of truth produces. . . . You treat Holy Scripture as it merits, 'non ut verbum hominum sed (sicut est verum) verbum Dei,' with respect and deference; not analyzing it with the cold indifference of a man dissecting a corpse, but treating it as having 'spirit and life.' You were not ashamed to intermingle some pious reflections with the scientific order of your commentaries, so that we feel that the heart of a priest is there. I do not mention its surety of doctrine or its philological erudition; they are manifest." E. H.

Christ's Masterpiece. By Wm. F. Robison, S. J. B. Herder Book Co., St. Louis, Mo. \$1.25 net. Pp. 203.

A fitting study of the One True Church, describing her foundation by Jesus Christ, the powers given to her ministers, and the marks singling her out from the multitude of sects professing to lead the way to God. Father Robison's purpose is to explain the reasons for our belief in, and love for, "The Masterpiece of Christ," to make us firm against the sneering attacks of modern infidelity, and to enable us to appreciate in a higher degree what she has done and will do for us if we be but faithful.

In this book, composed of a series of Lenten lectures, the author lays no claim to originality in method or argument; his style, though not plain, is very readable and full of beautiful passages.

The first lecture, "The Great Charter," studies Christ as He invests His Church with the "threefold power of teaching, sanctifying and

ruling the souls of men." "Some Prerogatives" treats of the promises of Christ which makes His Church undying, always one and the same, the ordinary means of man's salvation. "The Primate of the Kingdom" discusses St. Peter, the foundation of the Church, and ever-ruling in his lawful successors. "The Seal of the Great Kingdom" marks the true Church by her "transcendent holiness and her apostolic succession, proved legitimate by Catholic unity."

The last lecture is a beautiful picture of the Church as the Bride of Christ and the Mother of the Faithful: a Bride, holy and spotless, united to her Spouse by the closest of ties; a Mother, sweet and loving, guiding her children from the cradle to the grave, yes, even aiding them through the fires of purgatory to the very gates of heaven; a Mother not unmindful of the temporal, while caring for the spiritual welfare of her children; a Mother whose loving, outstretched arms will not be closed until they have embraced all—even those wandering in the dark shades of spiritual night.

N. G.

The Pilgrimage of Life. By Albert Muntsch, S. J. \$1.00 net. Pp. 219. Herder Book Co., St. Louis, Mo.

Sacred Scripture tells us that "Life is a warfare." Never before in the history of our country has this infallibly inspired truth been brought home to us so forcibly as it is today when nations, small and great, are struggling with might and main to conserve their national existence. But while the mighty conflict rages around us, perhaps there is a deadly enemy lurking within ourselves and robbing us of that spiritual armor given us by God to fight life's ceaseless battle. To help you to conquer this enemy Father Muntsch has written "The Pilgrimage of Life." He shows you the weapons you need for this earthly warfare. He places in your hand "The Lamp of Hope," bids you take "Courage in Adversity," tells you of the efficacy of the sacraments, and makes you better appreciate the goodness of God. Because of its simplicity of language and clearness of thought it should appeal to, and be read by, many Catholic laymen, for the author does not stagger the mind of the reader with striking metaphors, but with good sense and sound judgment impresses upon him the love of God and directs his vision towards the City Eternal. These handsomely printed pages abound with passages from Sacred Scripture which lend to them peculiar charm and expressiveness, and the several interesting stories narrated assuredly help the reader to follow Him who is the Way, the Truth, and the Life.

C. McE.

A Soldier's Confidences With God. By Lieutenant Giosue Borsi. \$1.00 net; \$1.10 postpaid. Pp. 362. P. J. Kenedy & Sons, N. Y. City.

This remarkable work, the author of which was killed in action with the Italian army on November 10, 1915, is well named, for it is the record of heart to heart talks he himself had with his Maker; it is truly a Soldier's Confidences with God. Three sentiments permeate every line of the work—love of friends, love of country and intense love of God.

To quote from the foreword, "One's first impulse is to heave a sigh of regret that such a splendid young fruit tree had to perish while yet in bloom. . . . But as one reads further and thinks—for these writings of his are veritable generators of thought—the sigh of regret turns

into a cry of rejoicing, a paean of thanksgiving. For this was one of those trees of which the blossoms needs must die before they can bear fruit."

Like St. Augustine's Confessions, "A Soldier's Confidences with God" tells the experiences of a soul as it first falls away from God and virtue, is then drawn back by grace toward its Creator, and at last consumed with the raging fires of love for all that pertains to heaven and things divine. The author continually compares his feelings as a man of the world, careless of duty, sinful, unmindful of the great truths of eternity, with his sentiments as a good Catholic, turned from his ways of sin and sloth toward God and salvation. There is a wonderfully inspiring lesson, interesting to read, useful to the soul, convincingly told, in "A Soldier's Confidences with God."

M. M.

The Story of Oswald Page. By Rev. Edwin A. Flynn, Chaplain 301st Infantry, U. S. N. A. 75 cents net. Pp. 212. P. J. Kenedy & Sons, New York City.

A thrilling story for boys, capable of gripping their attention throughout and full of delightful, hair-raising tricks and plots. Oswald Page, a boy from Arizona, has the pluck and daring of the Motor Boys, sings like the lad in "His First and Last Appearance," is another Claude Lightfoot at baseball, and a Percy Wynn in nobility of soul and love of prayer; like the latter, he comes for the first time among boys and soon wins a difficult way to fame at St. Calixtus' Academy. The book is thoroughly Catholic, and without giving the "preaching" effect teaches many a good lesson. It is a story any boy would welcome.

Father Flynn certainly knows the hearts of those for whom he writes, and we hope this will not be his last attempt at story-telling.

N. G.

New Testament and Catholic Prayer-book combined. Cloth, black or khaki, 45 cents net; imitation leather, gold edges, black or khaki, 90 cents net. Pp. 707. Benziger Bros., New York City.

It was a very happy thought that suggested this work, since for devotional reading nothing is more inspiring or profitable than the New Testament; it can be used even during Mass. Soldiers and sailors should find it very valuable, not only because it contains prayers especially adapted to their use but also because it is small enough to fit a vest pocket, and consequently can be made a constant companion, ready to supply the consolation and strength necessary for a life replete with suffering, hardship and temptation.

N. G.

Altar Manual. New and Revised Edition John Murphy Co., Baltimore, Md. Price \$1.00 net. Pp. 11.

Priests, the country over, will welcome this handy new manual. Included in its contents are the "Asperges" and "Vidi Aquam," with notes for their intonation, the Prayers after Low Mass and the Prayers for the Authorities. The Most Holy Rosary and the Prayer to St. Joseph are placed under October devotions. The "De Profundis" in

English, the Angelus and "Regina Laetare" follow in order. The Manual closes with the Prayers for the Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament and the Divine Praises. The very readable print stands out large and clear on a heavy quality of white glazed paper; the black cover is heavy and enduring.

N. G.

Readings and Reflections for the Holy Hour. By Rev. F. A. Reuter (second revised edition). Fr. Pustet Company, Inc., New York City. \$1.25 net. Pp. 489.

Fr. Reuter's book before us, like his recent little publication, "Anecdote Sermonettes for Children's Mass," answers a present need. Of late years there has been a wonderful spread of devotion to Jesus in the Holy Eucharist, and with this devotion has come the introduction into many parishes of the weekly and the monthly Holy Hour. Not a few very good books have been printed for use in this beautiful service, but none appear more simple and edifying in matter, or more plain and orderly in manner of execution than this one. In the 489 excellently printed pages, composed in a clear, beautiful, forceful style, Fr. Reuter has given us fifty-three "Readings of the Manifestations of the Real Presence taken from Christian authors of learning and piety," and Reflections, consisting "of a collection of passages from the Fathers and Doctors of the Church." In each Reading are recorded several manifestations, through miracles, or revelations, or wondrous graces and incidents, made by the Eucharistic God to His Saints and Blesseds and other chosen souls. In each Reflection we have a good meditation on the humility, the goodness, the love, or some other divine attribute of Christ in the Blessed Sacrament. Appended is a method of procedure for solemn ceremonies in connection with this Holy Service.

A little volume that will enhance every Holy Hour and that merits well the attention of every pious reader.

G. K.

Jacqueline; a Novel. By John Ayscough. P. J. Kenedy & Sons, New York City. \$1.50 net; postage extra. Pp. 390.

Self-sacrifice, whether found in actual life or in literature, always commands our unstinted admiration and praise. It is a sublime virtue, refining and elevating those who practice it as well as those who can only reverence it from afar.

Such is the case with all who read John Ayscough's latest novel, "Jacqueline." In his own inimitable way the celebrated author portrays the psychological development of a girl who, after passing through a severe course in the school of experience, suffering and sacrifice, stands before us resplendent in that sterling nobility of soul which always marks the true perfection of Christian womanhood.

This splendid story, so beautifully conceived and so masterfully executed, will be warmly welcomed by all who appreciate the highest standard in Catholic fiction.

N. E.

The Man from Nowhere; a Juvenile. By Anna T. Sadlier. \$1.00 post-paid. Benziger Bros., New York City. Pp. 187.

A real story for real boys. In this book Miss Sadlier has gone far towards supplying us with that for which we so patiently waited, and

with which we are gradually being presented—good, lively stories for Catholic boys to offset and obliterate those commonplace and melodramatic tales which are so widespread at the present day. Centering around a prominent seashore resort, the Man from Nowhere reveals to us a series of events, as thrilling as they are interesting, which befall two young college boys on vacation, yet, withal, permeated with a gentle, Catholic touch. As usual, Miss Sadlier's book presents itself in a clear, brisk style, suitable to its readers. The plot is well-woven with touches of humor, and cannot fail to please even the most vivacious youth. Parents will find it just the book for their sons, who will not only enjoy reading it, but will gain from it a true appreciation of that gift of gifts—the Faith.

R. H.

The Tideway. By John Ayscough. \$1.50 net; by mail \$1.65. Pp. 401. Benziger Bros., New York City.

A Friar in giving his opinion of the book says it is thoroughly "John Ayscough"—and he was rather conversant with the author's works. To attract the attention of a multitude of book-lovers toward this volume of short-stories, scarcely more need be said.

One peculiarity of this book he noted also was its peacefulness. Unlike most of the current literature the author gives but few pictures of the war, then the less gruesome ones. He says: "To an old man of peace and of the pen who has stood near-hand to it (the war) the anguish of writing of it is too raw and terrible." There are, however, other evils which afflict the lives of many people besides those of war; some of these, it would seem, the author is trying to solve in the stories, "Firing," "Athelmar," and "For Surmise."

One enjoys "The Sacristans," "Old Wine and New Bottles," and a "Franco-American Encounter."

N. G.

The External of the Catholic Church. Second edition. By Rev. J. F. Sullivan of the Diocese of Providence. P. J. Kenedy & Sons, New York City.

The early appearance of the second edition of this book will occasion no surprise in the minds of those acquainted with the first edition, timely and appropriate as it was. The second impression contains in addition to the first an explanation of the Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament together with an enlightening treatment of a number of other points and practises peculiar to the Catholic Liturgy and ecclesiastical tradition previously omitted by the author.

What Catholic has not at some time or other desired information on such topics as the Popes, the Bishops, monastic life or the Sacraments of the Church? Who has not asked himself about the Mass, and why said in Latin; about the Bible, marriage and its laws, fasting and abstinence, as well as questions concerning the Rosary, indulgences, candles, incense, the invocation of the saints, not to mention the liturgical year in its general aspect with its round of fast and feast, and its significant ceremonies eloquent now of joy and now of grief?

"The External of the Catholic Church," the only work of its kind in English, is an invaluable compendium of interesting and accurate information on all such subjects, treating each in a manner that is at once brief, understandable and satisfying.

M. M.