

THE FRIARS' BOOK-SHELF

Doctrinal Discourses. By Rev. A. M. Skelly, O. P. Vol. I, pp. 307; Vol. II, pp. 320. \$1.50 each. Dominican Sisters' Publishing Co., Tacoma, Wash.

Every one who watches the book-market has noticed that nowadays large quantities of sermon books are appearing, and that few, except hard-working priests ever read them. One reason for this may be that only too often matter of this kind is published either because of or in spite of the fact that the sermons have never been preached. In fact, some of them seem to have been written solely for publication. Faultless in doctrine, still, their style and lack of coherence would put any healthy congregation to sleep. Their only redeeming feature is that some priest may get a few workable ideas from their perusal. Their chief merit lies in the richness of their potentiality.

The excellence of the present volumes, however, is of such a high order as to more than justify their publication. They were not written for the press, but accumulated, as the author says, "in the course of a somewhat lengthy pastoral and missionary career." They were well received both from the pulpit and periodicals, and that they were welcomed later in book form, is amply demonstrated not only by the favorable verdict of the reviewers, but also by the speedy exhaustion of the first edition.

The discourses, which will fill five volumes, are adapted to the Sundays of the year. Volume I begins with the first Sunday of Advent and goes to Quinquagesima. To these are added special sermons for the great feasts from the Immaculate Conception to the Presentation. Volume II reaches from the first Sunday of Lent to the second after Easter. Besides these, there are exceptionally fine discourses on the Passion, St. Joseph, St. Catherine of Sienna, a panegyric on St. Thomas and two very eloquent panegyrics on St. Patrick, together with an excellent collection of historical matter bearing on Ireland and her great Apostle. Filled with stimulating thoughts, expressed in a graceful, fluent manner, the work will be of immense assistance in the preaching of the Gospel, and will be a valuable addition to the library of every priest.

N. J. E.

De Indulgentiis. Manuale Theorico-Practicum ad Norman Codicis Juris Canonici. P. Ludovicus Fanfani, O. P. Declée, Rome. Pp. 110. Price, 2 lire.

This small volume contains a full and interesting explanation of the Catholic teaching on Indulgences, and exposes the doctrine and practice of the Church on this subject with remarkable clearness and brevity. Accordingly, it should prove exceptionally serviceable to professors, priests, and others whose duty it is to answer questions concerning the many details pertaining to Indulgences. Such matters as the conditions of "toties quoties" indulgences, the privileged altar, application to others of indulgences gained, are explained in a practical way and with very satisfactory precision. The author is especially well qualified to speak authoritatively because he is not only a distinguished moral theologian but also has a thorough grasp of the whole range of Thomistic theology. In his preface, Father Fanfani promises to treat the subject of Indulgences in a practical and clear manner. He keeps his promise in the body of his book and thus has succeeded in giving us a most complete manual of Catholic teaching on Indulgences.

The Catholic Student's "Aids" to the Bible. By V. Rev. Hugh Pope, O. P., S. T. M. Pp. 408. \$2.00 net. Benziger Bros.

The second volume of "Aids" to the study of the Bible, from the pen of Father Pope, O. P., will be warmly welcomed by students of the Sacred Writings, not only on account of the authority of the author, but also because of the excellence of the work itself. The first four chapters are devoted to setting forth the habits, customs, institutions and language of the Jews at the time of Christ. The terms Sanhedrin, Synagogue, Tribute, Pharisees, Sadducees and Publicans are clearly explained, thus giving much information necessary for a thorough understanding of the Gospel story. Subsequent chapters treat of the relation between the Old and the New Testaments, of the Canon, Texts and Versions, and various phases of Textual Criticism. But the real value of this volume lies in the "Aids" to each of the four Gospels. In this can be found all that any student needs to help him to understand and appreciate the different Gospels. A. P.

The Principles of Christian Apologetics. By Rev. T. J. Walshe. Pp. 240. \$2.25 net. Longmans, Green & Co., N. Y. C.

Every day new pigmies arise to hurl new objections against the teachings of the Church. And though many of these prove to be but phases of the old stumbling-blocks, still they must be met by every Catholic priest and student. These attacks are not only to be withstood by us, but they must be conquered with convincing arguments, and to do this one needs a book containing all the principles of Christian apologetics—one easy to consult, containing simple, clear proofs. These fundamental principles which are the object of all attacks may be found, in the above manner, in Father Walshe's book. The greatest proofs are set forth in such a succinct but interesting way as to add charm to an already absorbing subject. The author possesses the rare art of reducing the greatest truths to the understanding of the crowd.

The arrangement of the book conforms to the subject and its particular treatment. The first eleven chapters are devoted to Natural Religion. Led onward by the criteria of miracles and prophecies, the reader is brought to see the only form of supernatural religion—Christianity. The author also uses science and reason to support the theistic arguments.

To give the reader an idea of the extent and practical purpose of this work we shall outline one of its chapters. "Thou art Christ, the Son of God" Chapter 16, is unparalleled. The Messianic prophecies and the texts showing their fulfillment are given in parallel columns, after a brief paragraph of introduction. It then states the Jewish conception of the Messiah and the exegetical reasons justifying belief in Christ's divinity. He discusses the realistic theories and afterwards outlines the Synoptic and Johannine proofs of the fact that Christ declared His divinity. Finally, a resume contains the single truths treated of in the chapter.

Ireland's Fight for Freedom. By George Creel. \$2.00 net. Pp. 199. Harper and Brothers, New York City.

"As far back as 1599 Lord Essex wrote to Queen Elizabeth, 'Twere as well for our credit that we alone had the exposition of our quarrel with this people (the Irish), and not they also,' and this policy of suppression and misrepresentation has been followed by every English government since the virgin Queen.

The world today knows next to nothing of Irish history, and even the little that is known has been learned from English sources" (Pp. 56-57). With this fact in mind, Mr. Creel sets out to give the public an accurate account of Ireland's fight for freedom. The book is not pleasant reading; the subject is far too sad and too true for that. But it is a through treatment of a timely topic. In words ringing with conviction and authority, Mr. Creel depicts Ireland's grim tragedy of the past seven hundred years. With arguments that might well embarrass even the versatile Lloyd George, the author disposes of the standard objections to Irish independence. The Ulster "Problem," once seen in its true light, can remain a problem to those only who will not see that two and two make four. "Can Ireland stand alone?" The answer is found in a happy comparison of Ireland's economic, political, and religious questions with those of flourishing Canada. The book is a genuine contribution to political literature, and merits careful reading by every one who prefers history to English press dispatches. —L. C.

The Dominican College Year Book, 1918-1919.

This book like many other good things, is a product of sunny California. In the best sense of the term it is a work of art since it is an authentic record of San Rafael student-life, portrayed not in its religious, social, intellectual and aesthetic phases but also in its athletic and open-air recreational aspects. The book recommends itself not only for its faultless form, excellent printing, and beautiful illustrations, but also for its high literary quality. We have here a variety of interesting essays, stories, fairytales, and verse, some in translation, that merits well the name of poetry. Taken all in all, the girls have wrought an exquisite work which speaks volumes in praise of the San Rafael Sisters' efficient Catholic educational training. —G. K.

St. Joan of Arc. By Rev. D. Lynch, S. J. Pp. 348. Price, \$2.50 net. Benziger Bros. New York City.

Father Lynch gives us an excellent life of Joan of Arc, taking as his chief authority the unsurpassed work of Père Ayroles, S. J., the "historian par excellence of Joan of Arc." Before entering upon the life proper, he discusses in five chapters the following, among kindred subjects: recent studies on the Maid of

Orleans; Joan and the Church; her mission and preeminent sanctity; her military genius; the character of Charles VII, and Christendom at the time of Joan. The remainder of the work is devoted to her life, trial, execution, rehabilitation and canonization. More might have been said of the process by which Joan received her proper place before the world and the Church.

—B. W.

The Woes of Ireland. By Fr. Skelly, O. P. Pp. 40. Five cents.
Dominican Srs. Pub. Co., Tacoma, Wash.

Truly, as the Master General, the Most Rev. Louis Theisinger, said, Father Skelly strikes not with a dead hand. In his pamphlet dedicated to "the great heart of the American People, who love justice and hate iniquity, no matter by whom perpetrated," he gives a brief but eloquent resume of the sufferings of Ireland. In page after page of irrefutable charges, culled for the most part from England's own foremost historians, the author stigmatizes the shameless tyranny of Britain during the past seven hundred years. The pamphlet more than justifies Ireland's insistence on a hearing at the Peace Council, and her ardent appeal to the conscience of humanity in her fight for freedom.

—L. C.

The Celtic Race. By Fr. Skelly, O. P. Pp. 31. Five cents

This is an interesting attempt to clear up some of the problems in the history of the early Celt. It also is published by the Dominican Sisters.

The American Priest. By Rev. G. T. Schmidt. Pp. 147. Price, \$1.25. Benziger Bros., N. Y. C.

This little volume fills a unique place among the publications of today. The author treats of twenty topics, each of which brings important lessons home to the priest, since they have a practical application to his everyday life. Although primarily intended for the use of the clergy, the work can be read with equal profit by the aspirant to the sacerdotal dignity, since its sole aim is to give to the American priest brief but comprehensive treatises relative to those particular obligations and duties which are of vital import to the ambassador of Christ. Its style, originality and practical handling of present-day problems will insure the wide circulation it deserves.

—J. D. E.

Held in the Everglades. By Fr. Spalding, S. J. Pp. 234. Price, \$1.25.

Facing Danger. By Fr. Finn, S. J. Pp. 197. Price, \$1.25.

The Finding of Tony. By Mary T. Waggaman. Pp. 146. Price, \$1.25. All at Benziger Bros., N. Y. C.

If a good book is a good companion, then here are three excellent comrades for the youth. They are amusing, lively, and thrilling, wholesome, instructive, and purifying. Each has a strong appeal, but "Facing Danger" possesses an added attraction in the reappearance of an old friend—Tom Playfair. —N. G.

Out to Win. By Fr. Conroy, S. J. Pp. 181. Price, \$1.25. Benziger Bros.

Fr. Conroy has a very intimate knowledge of the character, thought, and manner of expression of the modern boy and young man. In this book he tells the truth openly and forcefully, but with such love and respect as to win the heart of his youthful reader. "Out to Win" is permeated by a delightful snap and the ring of sincerity. Those who love boys should spread this book far and wide.

—N. F. G.

The Deep Heart. By Isabel C. Clarke. Pp. 382. Price, \$1.50. Benziger Bros., N. Y. C.

Nature has been idealized in this novel by a happy force of description. The author has, moreover, given to that nature either a poetical or a spiritual significance in causing it to foretell by its various moods the approach of some great joy or disaster. The rival characters, themselves friends, appear at once on the scene, and are portrayed simply and boldly, while the heroine, the deep-hearted Averil, is cleverly introduced by a letter in which she reveals her beautiful simplicity. While a high sense of humor—especially effective against foolish mannerism—prevails, it can readily be converted into a genuine sympathy. It may be added also that the author's ability to suggest developments goes far to preserve that keen interest which the novel elicits.

—D. M.

Catholic Home Annual, 1920. Pp. 85. Price, \$0.25.

Manna of the Soul By Fr. Lasance. With Epistles and Gospels. Pp. 359. Price, \$1.00-\$4.50. Both from Benziger Bros.

Path to Peace. By Fr. Donovan, O. P. De Luxe Edition, \$1.25.

Democratic Industry. By Rev. Jos. Husslein, S. J. Price, \$1.50 net. Pp. 362. P. J. Kenedy & Sons, N. Y. City.

Fr. Husslein's purpose in this work is to give a compendious history of labor to the student, to the world an appreciation of what the Church has done for the temporal good of the workman, and to the Catholic laborer a social program which rests on Catholic principles. Therefore, beginning with the labor unions of Egypt, Greece, and Rome he sketches the history of democratic industry from those early times, through the Middle Ages with its wonderful system of guilds, down to our own day. Workmen cooperatives and other recent methods of making industry democratic receive their proper treatment. The book is not, however, a mere record of facts: it analyzes each succeeding method, system or program showing its good and bad points, why it failed or why it succeeded; it also brings out into prominence the fact that the Church has always made the good of the poorer class one of her great concerns.

Guided by the past the writer then ably draws up "A Catholic Social Platform" (this chapter is also printed separately in pamphlet form). Every measure is based on principles, right reason, and experience. It serves admirably as a model to be applied to the exigencies of any day. In the platform itself continual references are made to chapters of this book and of "World Problem" (an earlier work) where the reason of the measure is given and application made. Fr. Husslein's books are receiving careful attention and deserve wide circulation.

—N. F. G.

