

THE FRIARS' BOOK-SHELF

The Acts of the Apostles, With a Practical Critical Commentary.

By Rev. Charles J. Callan, O. P. \$2.00 net. Pp. 198. J. F. Wagner (Inc.), New York City.

This latest work of Father Callan, like his previous commentary on the four Gospels, gives in a handy volume all that the ordinary student desires to know about exegesis. The uninitiated, in the reading of this author's works, will here find that the many praises bestowed upon him as a Scriptural scholar are well merited. His rendering of the very difficult passages in the "Acts" is most commendable, being clear and comprehensive. His great care in defining the many words of doubtful origin is no less praiseworthy. The seminarian and priest will find a most valuable aid in this book. To the laity, as well, it commends itself a most fitting guide in the study of the "Acts."—W. A. O'C.

Sermons on the Mass, the Sacraments, and the Sacramentals.

By Rev. Thomas Flynn, C. C. \$2.50 net. Pp. 408. Benziger Bros., New York City.

In this latest volume of Father Flynn's sermons both the clergy and the laity will find an abundant supply of useful information. All the topics are of great concern to Catholics. The author gives many beautiful and appropriate references to the Word of God, which sustain the interest and cannot fail to enkindle in the heart of the reader a warmer love for God and His Church. The manner and comprehensiveness of their treatment affords the reader untold satisfaction, and makes him feel he has made a profitable investment. It is to be regretted, however, that some points on the sacraments do not coincide with the new Canon Law.

—C. F. K.

Living Temples. By Bede Jarrett, O. P. Pp. 104. 2s. 6d. net. Burns & Oates Ltd., London.

This is a book of half a hundred meditations for boys. "To the mind and experience of the writer of these meditations, it is a startling fact that in modern society the contemplative most frequently to be met is a boy" (Introduction). Father Jarrett, although learned in theology, has in a highly commendable way done violence to his scientific knowledge of that subject in con-

structing "Living Temples." His highly gifted intellect has stooped to the level of that of a lad upon whom the age of reason has scarcely dawned. He associates those things that come naturally into the daily life of a boy with supernatural ideas. Thus he conscripts thoughts on such subjects as, "Keeness," "Games," "Hobbies," "Whistling," and many other equally as absorbing to youth into the service of religion.

We hope to provide each of our young friends now in their early "teens" with a copy of this little book. We recommend that you do likewise, loving as you do, clean, keen, jolly boys.

—R. M. B.

Mysticism True and False. By Dom S. Louismet, O. S. B. \$1.80. Pp. 159. P. J. Kenedy and Sons, New York City.

"The mystical life," the author says, "is a conscious, sustained, loving attention to God" (143), "the intercourse of mutual love between God and the fervent Christian" (144). It is the normal development of the Christian life, the rosebud fully blown. In order to make his meaning clear, the author distinguishes the mystical life from the miraculous, something only accidental and not at all proper to mysticism; and from tepidity, which because of its lack of fervor retards any development of the soul. Two forms of false mysticism which have brought great discredit on the true are Jansenism and Quietism, the former forgetting in its rigor that the Lord is the God of love, the Divine Saviour; the latter disregarding in its laxness the words, "How narrow is the gate and strait is the way that leadeth to life." The author devotes a number of chapters to the analysis of sin, "unmysticism," in its causes, effects on soul and body, and punishment. "Purgatory," "The Prodigal's Return," and "The Marriage of the Lamb" are other of the chapters.

The work is striking, full of unction, very readable, and within the comprehension of the ordinary person. It brings light, comfort, and profit to the soul.

—N. F. G.

"Preghiere ed Elevazione" di Santa Caterina da Siena. Compiled by Fr. Innocenzo Taurisano, O. P. Collegio Angelico, Roma.

The Saints have left us the secret of efficacious prayer. This booklet acquaints us with the divine contemplations of St. Catherine of Siena in her intimate union with God. The work is conveniently divided into three parts: the first contains her devo-

tional prayers, "Preghiere"; the second, "Elevazione," her doctrinal prayers, properly so called, being her contemplations upon the mysteries of faith; the third and last part contains some of the Dialogues, which took place during her ecstasies later in life.

In these sacred utterances we catch a glimpse of that beautiful and innocent soul, and see, especially, her unique devotion to the Holy See. They are compiled in a very orderly fashion in the original Italian, the purity of which places her among the pioneers of Italian prose. This work will be a useful one to all beginners as well as those advanced in spirituality. —A. N.

Eunice. By Isabel C. Clarke. \$1.75 net. Pp. 477. Benziger Bros., New York City.

That Miss Clarke's forte is characterization is put beyond all reasonable doubt in this charming and absorbing Catholic novel. In centering so much of the action in an ideal Catholic home, and peopling it with such admirable types, Miss Clarke does religion and truth a real service.

Eunice Dampier is the only child and victim of a mesalliance. She has a devoted father and a mother—who reminds one forcibly of Becky Sharpe—who through her extravagance, gambling and coquetry brings her husband to the brink of social and financial ruin. Through her jealousy and selfishness Eunice is adopted by the Parmeters. From now on, it is a struggle of a beautiful girl's convictions and sympathies under the alternate influence of her parents and the members of Parmeter family. After a long series of vicissitudes, the crisis of her life comes in the choice between her lover and her now destitute and divorced mother. Though mindful of her mother's cruelty and scandalous life, Eunice, who is about to join the true Church, sees her duty through Catholic eyes. The ending is what the reader naturally expects. Julian Parmeter, the most lovable and finely drawn characters in the book, who has always been Eunice's constant lover and advisor, wins her. The dramatic action of the whole is splendid. Interest never falters. This, as well as its freshness and finish, should commend it to all novel readers.—F. J. B.

The Things Immortal. By Fr. Garesche, S. J. \$1.10 net. Pp. 144. Benziger Bros., New York City.

This book of "Spiritual Thoughts for Every-day Reading" is a continuation of the popular instructive readings given in

former works of Father Garesche. It will help to make a Catholic's life not only more happy and thoughtful by pointing out new ways of doing good, but also more profitable for eternity because of the holier and higher motives it suggests.—N. F. G.

Talks too Parents. By Fr. Conroy, S. J. \$1.25. Pp. 173. Benziger Bros., New York City.

This is a worthy successor and complement to the author's former work, "Out to Win," a series of talks to boys. It is not always the child's fault when he goes wrong: at times it is due to the neglect of parents, whether intentional or not; again, it is some unsound, even if well-meant, method of child-training. Father Conroy pictures here a goodly number of the problems that parents must solve if they wish to be a help to their children. The talks are strong, earnest and to the point; the character-sketches are clever, real, and living. It is a book that any one can read with interest. Those who have children under their care will find it full of light and consolation. —N. F. G.

The Indian Sentinel. A Quarterly. \$1.00 per year. 1326 New York Avenue, Washington, D. C.

The Indian Sentinel is here to ask us not to forget our home missions while caring for the needs of foreign populaces. It is full of interesting accounts of the missionary's work on prairie and hillside, during winter and summer. One rejoices over what has been accomplished for the spiritual good of the Indian, but one also regrets that there is so much more to do with so few to help, and so little to enable the present laborers to do all they can. The present issue is dedicated to the memory of Bishop Marty, O. S. B., a successful teacher, a prolific writer, but most of all the friend and father of the Indians. He is called "The Apostle of the Sioux Indians," the just recognition of his tireless labors in their behalf.

The Irish in Argentina. By Thomas Murray. \$3.50 net. Pp. 512. P. J. Kenedy and Sons, New York City.

While this boook is intended primarily, we believe, for Argentinians it has a very warm appeal to all concerned in the history of the Irish race, be the setting in the homeland or some adopted country far from Erin's shores. Of especial interest should it be to members of the Dominican family because of the

outstanding work of Fr. Anthony Fahey, O. P., "the great figure that rises so largely and lovingly above all others in Irish-Argentine memories." Fr. Fahey, an Irish Dominican, labored in Kentucky and Ohio during the '40s of the last century. The author says of him: "That Fr. Fahey may be called a great man is proved in the works he affected for his people, in the benefits he conferred upon them, in the willingness with which they accepted his control and guidance, and in the affection, in which his memory is held." The author's role is that of the pioneer and his work deserves a place in every reference library. —E. H.

St. Dominic and the Rosary.. The Falsity of Evolution. By Fr. A. M. Skelley, O. P. 15 cents each. The Kaufer Co., Seattle, Wash.

Father Skelley has almost a genius for sifting fact from theory, solid proof from mere rhetoric. Whether defending the traditional history of the Rosary or attacking false theories in science, his forceful style and masterly argumentation make his conclusions acceptable, or at least worthy of careful consideration.

Bolshevism—Its Cure. By David Goldstein and Martha Moore Avery. \$1.50. Pp. 414. Boston School of Political Economy, Boston, Mass.

Any one who has made the attempt to wade through the thick mire of Socialistic literature with the generous hope of coming upon a set of anti-Christian conclusions that he can assign to a definite group of men and consistently attack, knows how distressing is the procedure. This difficulty may be avoided if one puts his trust in the high achievement of the authors of "Bolshevism—Its Cure." These apostles of truth have long been familiar with the ideals of Socialism. Advancing with rational step from the ranks of the Socialists to army of Christ, they have consecrated their energies to a crusade against the organized opponents of the Christian scheme of life. Their exposition of the subject must, then, bear the stamp of undoubted authenticity.

Bolshevism is set out as the successful clamor of one band of Socialists. It is sufficiently established in the opening chapter that there exists a world-wide connection between the many movements that aim at the destruction of the present social order. And Socialists recognize the Catholic Church as their prin-

cial enemy. Principles generally accepted as fundamental in the Socialistic program and differing radically from Catholic teaching are boldly stated in excerpts from accredited sources. They are mercilessly refuted, sometimes by the same simile and flow of language in which they were set down. No inconsistency is allowed to pass. Socialists are illogical in calling themselves international, for to them the nation is a nonentity. All true Americans should notice that the official pronouncements of the Catholic hierarchy make for the safeguarding of our national ideals, while Socialist leaders openly repudiate all the institutions we have come to look upon as sacred. Horrible instances of insult to our country's emblem are cited as following upon lurid devotion to the red flag. The wide circulation of Socialistic doctrines in our schools and colleges is contrasted with the noble patriotism taught in the parochial school. One is told of the attempts made during the war to corrupt the honorable spirit of our soldiery. Then, Bolshevism, as the Marxian theory reduced to practise, is shown to be an utterly impossible remedy for the modern social ills. The book ends with a short account of the grand efforts of the Papacy to bring the recent war to an early end and demonstrates that the Catholic's dual allegiance produces the soundest patriotism.

Catholic influence should be brought to bear on the oppressed workingman who is innocently drawn into Socialism by its promises of relief. As the authors have little to say about the administering of the "cure," it might be well to give some publicity to Pope Benedict's appeal for recruiting the Third Order of St. Dominic. Last August he wrote that the Dominican Order offered "an assured refuge against the growing disorders of erring humanity," and on the sixth of September, "We invite all to enlist under the sacred banner of the Third Order of St. Dominic."

—U. C.