

THE FRIARS' BOOK-SHELF

The Interchurch and the Catholic Idea. By A. M. Skelly, O. P. Pp. 276. \$1.75. Dominican Sisters Publishing Co., Tacoma, Washington.

This latest book of Fr. Skelly contains a polemical discussion carried on by himself and some advocates for the great "Interchurch World Movement." Some remarks made by one of the advocates were challenged by Fr. Skelly, thus the origin of the discussion. This, together with some debates between him and other ministers who took exception to some of his statements, make up the first part of the book. The second part comprises a number of letters to a Protestant clergyman, exposing the Catholic doctrine on some points which seem to have caused him worry. The book closes with a brief dissertation on the notorious Bollinger Baby case, together with the Catholic position regarding such cases.

In the course of the debates not only were "ancient history" accusations against the Church revived, but many recent ones as well. In his refutation Fr. Skelly gives the true Catholic doctrine in a clear, concise, and interesting manner. He shows himself well imbued with a vast knowledge of Catholic dogma and of Christian apologetics. Another feature of the book is that it gives the Catholic laity an idea of the many accusations hurled at their religion by their Protestant friends, and the means to refute them on their own grounds. The book is to be recommended not only to the Catholic laity, but also to those wishing to know the true status of the Catholic Church on many of its vital principles.

—R. G.

The Art of Interesting. By Francis P. Donnelly, S. J. Pp. 321. \$1.50 net. P. J. Kenedy & Sons, New York City.

Many people wonder why so much of our writing, preaching and lecturing misses the mark and goes to waste. We read books and hear speakers and forget so much that should have been remembered and applied. The cause of this defect and its best remedy are clearly and convincingly set forth in this latest book from the pen of a man who, by reason of his scholarship and long experience as a teacher, is eminently qualified to speak with authority on the subject.

He shows that the chief reason for the ineffectiveness of much of our writing and speaking arises from the fact that speakers and writers so often fail to arouse and hold the interest of the audience. It is comparatively an easy matter to attract attention; but how to hold it, and to arouse a genuine and sustained interest—"ay, there's the rub." The best way to achieve this result, "so devoutly to be wished," is, as Father Donnelly says, by a judicious use of the imagination and the emotions. The cold language of the syllogism, in which truth stands stripped of all details, appeals merely to the reason. But that alone is too often powerless to move the heart. Truth, beauty and goodness have always been and always will be the graces of true eloquence. All three are absolutely necessary if he who speaks with voice or pen would lift his work out of the treatise or mere essay class, and make his message live and burn in the mind of his auditory. After showing how the imagination can be developed and applied to relieve monotony, he takes up in detail the methods of interesting as used by particular authors. He is very happy in his way of showing that every legitimate charm of art may and should be pressed into the service of the truth, according to the saying of Stevenson. When Father Donnelly goes into the theory of imagination his philosophy of art is sound and sane to an eminent degree. His book is bound to interest and prove helpful to all whom it is meant to serve. —N. J. E.

Experimental Psychology. By Hubert Gruender, S. J., Ph. D.
Vol. I, pp. 295. \$1.50. Loyola University Press, Chicago, Ill.

In this work Father Gruender has given us a splendid experimental psychology in English. This book, as the author tells us, "means to introduce the student to the methods and results of experimental psychology and that not merely in a descriptive manner but by leading him into the laboratory itself."

As the internal experiences of consciousness have their origin in sensation, to this subject the author devotes the greater part of this first volume. The sensations of sight are treated principally, those of the other senses subordinately. Then a problem that lies on the boundary between the problems of sensation and perception is discussed, to wit, visual space perception. Because of the importance of this topic the author treats of it at length. In a chapter on attention he gives an

excellent treatment, although brief, of such subjects as, "The Background and Foreground of Sensory Experience," "Subconscious Sensations and Activities," and "The Fluctuation of Voluntary Attention." The last two chapters treat of sense-perception and imagination together with their interrelations. Scattered throughout the chapters there are a number of experiments by which the student may examine for himself the facts of the text. Happily these experiments as a rule are capable of being performed by the average man or woman without any elaborate or intricate apparatus.

Everybody who is at all interested in psychology will find this book easy reading and at the same time intensely interesting. It will recommend itself especially to students of philosophy in Catholic colleges and seminaries as a supplement to their study of rational psychology.

—B. J. W.

The Church at the Turning Points of History. By Godfrey Kurth. Translated by Rt. Rev. Monsignor Victor Day, Helena, Montana. Pp. 192. \$1.85.

This excellent little work contains the substance of a course of lectures given by the scholarly historian, Godfrey Kurth, at the "Women's University Extension" in Antwerp, during the scholastic year 1897-1898. The work is a valuable contribution to apologetic literature on the Catholic Church. The manner in which the Church weathered the storms of barbarian invasions, of political and social movements, surviving all kinds of trying ordeals proves that she is divine in her mission. Among the pivotal epochs selected for consideration by the author are the Barbarian Invasions, Feudalism, Neo-Cesarism, the Renaissance, and the French Revolution. Brief historical notes given to enable the general reader to study the work with greater profit, have been introduced in this edition. The work is further enhanced by the splendid preface from the pen of the Rt. Rev. John P. Carroll, Bishop of Helena.

—B. S.

The Pope and Italy. By the V. Rev. Doctor Casacca, O. S. A. Pp. 62. 50 cents. J. J. McVey, Philadelphia, Pa.

From the title it will at once be seen that this book has to do with the Roman Question, which in the September past rounded out its fiftieth anniversary. The general viewpoint on

this great question may be classed in a twofold category. First, those who have no interest whatsoever in the matter; and secondly, those whose interest takes them no farther than a newspaper synopsis of this vital question. The reason given by both seems to be that too much time and work would be required for even a fair knowledge of it. Those who have studied the question know that this is untrue, and especially since the appearance of this splendid work of Fr. Casacca.

The book, written with great moderation and power of reasoning, points out without bias why and how the Holy See claims the right of a temporal kingdom; where Italy erred in usurping, and errs in holding this prerogative of the Holy Father; and the one-sidedness and instability of the "Law of Guarantees." He concludes by pointing out the way to a happy solution of this great question, giving some fundamental points for negotiation and settlement.

—R. G.

Catholics and the Pope. Pp. 30. Augusta, Ga.

By question and answer this pamphlet ably treats of almost every conceivable point about the Pope and his claims. It can be had of the "Catholic Laymen's Association of Georgia" who put it out especially for the benefit of their mis-instructed fellow-citizens. It deserves a national distribution, and we heartily wish it and its promoters the success due to their labors.—W. G.

Dominican College Year Book, 1919-1920. San Rafael, Calif.

This, a Jubilee Number, is of an unquestionably high worth. Mother Louis, the Jubilarian, is the happy recipient of copious but merited praise from such distinguished contributors as the Most Rev. Archbishop Hanna, the educator Brother Leo, and Arthur Barry O'Neil. Also have the students and Alumnae in prose and in verse wreathed around her name the sincerest expression of their esteem and gratitude. The more vividly to commemorate Mother Louis' fiftieth year as a Dominican religious they have given quite an ample account of the tradition of the great Order for which their Mother so incessantly labored. Besides valuable information on early California the volume presents topics sure to meet with popular appreciation. In literary endeavor a high standard is maintained. The verse, though

lacking at times the more stringent classical requirements, possesses none the less a wealth of poetical conception. The short stories are vivid, attractive, and true to life; nor need even the romantic story entitled "Her Train of Thought" be labelled as unnatural if we are to understand the latter half as a dream. The Year Book not only reflects a high grade of education, it will be as well a source of enlightenment for those who read it.

—D. M.

Ursula Finch. By Isabel Clarke. Pp. 362. \$2.25. Benziger Bros.

"Ursula Finch" might have been appropriately entitled "A Modern Cinderella," for, excepting the accidental difference of time and place, the predominating character of both stories is strikingly similar. The author seems to have taken this old plot, set it in modern surroundings, clothed its personages in the habiliments of our own times, and then infused into the whole the sparks of her own rare genius and style. The result is a story delightfully refreshing, keen, sparkling and brimming over with interest; a story that runs through the whole gamut of human sensibility, from the depths of wretchedness to the heights of felicity.

This is the sort of story that one will recommend to those who decry the so-called Catholic novel. More than this; it is a reproach to the general run of modern fiction. To open one of Miss Clarke's books after perusing the usual novel today, gives one the sensation of emerging from a gloomy cavern, all filled with fetid odors, into the brightness and purity of a summer's day.

—L. J. C.

Jesus of Nazareth, Who was He? By J. Godfrey Raupert. Pp. 91. \$1.50. Marshall Jones Co., Boston, Mass.

If the religion of Jesus Christ was the work of man, it would long ago have been overthrown. But it has not been overthrown, consequently it is the work of God. Yet there are infidels who cannot see anything supernatural or divine in the extraordinary establishment and progress of Christianity. They tell us that it can all be explained quite naturally; they tell us that Jesus was a mere man—a crucified Jew, if a pious one. If you wish to have good arguments for the reasonableness of your faith and for the

Divinity of Jesus Christ read "Jesus of Nazareth." It is a veritable shield of defense, an appeal to reason and history. Mr. Raupert furnishes you with clear-cut common-sense arguments, and presents them in a manner calculated to convince any fair minded seeker of Truth. He shows how Christianity is the greatest fact in all history, that it is "a momentous victory, a rapid victory, a decisive victory, a lasting victory. Twelve ignorant Jewish fishermen to convert the world!" —C. McE.

Rejoice in the Lord. By Fr. Lasance. Pp. 505. \$2.00 and up. Benziger Bros., New York City.

This is another of the author's happy collections of maxims and prayers. The first part is a book of reflections, "a word of good cheer for each day in the year"; the second, a complete book of prayer for all persons; the third, a little book of indulgenced ejaculations and prayers grouped under convenient heads.

The Boy Who Looked Ahead. By J. Talbot Smith. Pp. 188. \$1.25. Blaze Benziger & Co., New York City.

This is what a boy's story should be: full of fun, adventure, and all but fatal mishaps; yet teaching the young reader the lessons which the hard experience of life would teach him later on. The story also shows how much a boy's club can do under the direction of a skilful and fatherly hand.

Blessed Oliver Plunkett. By a Sister of Notre Dame. Pp. 203. \$2.15. pp. P. J. Kenedy & Sons, N. Y. C.

A Child's Life of St. Joan of Arc. By Mary E. Mannix. Pp. 127. \$1.50 net. Benziger Bros., N. Y. C.

The Principal Catholic Practises. By Fr. Schmidt. Pp. 188. \$1.50 net. Benziger Bros., N. Y. C.

Mary the Mother. By Blanche M. Kelly. Pp. 141. \$1.00 net. Encyclopedia Press, N. Y. C.

These four books deserve a place in any Catholic home. The pleasure they will give and the edification they will cause will more than repay some economizing with regard to other amusements. "Mary the Mother" is a short but trustworthy and inter-

esting account of the life of the Blessed Virgin, her feasts, shrines, etc. Fr. Schmidt, in his work, gives some ardent and instructive talks on subjects, as the Sacraments, Sacramentals, Benediction, Indulgences, and the Rosary. The Life of St. Joan of Arc, though principally for children, will not fail to arouse and hold the attention of their elders. In view of the fact that both St. Joan and Blessed Oliver have been so recently honored by the Church these lives are very timely. Blessed Oliver's is a very stirring biography. It is not a "pious life." The abuses and sins of the age are not glossed over, but these darker colors bring out more clearly the bright virtues of our Blessed and of most of his fellow-workers, clerical and lay. To add even more to the zest of the story, the thrill of battle and persecution permeates its pages.

The Paths of Goodness. By Fr. Garesche, S. J. Pp. 164. \$1.50. Benziger Bros., New York City.

Fr. Garesche's little library of spiritual books is rapidly growing. His success is due to the practical tendency of his writings. His style is simple and direct, his exposition understandable to the less learned but not onerous to the wise, and his theme the faults, the trials, and the possibilities for greater holiness that men experience in their daily lives.

The Life of St. Margaret Mary Alcoque. By Rt. Rev. E. Bougaud. Pp. 388. \$2.75 net. Benziger Bros.

"If any one believes not in the infinite love of God for man displayed from His crib to His cross, and still shown in the Holy Eucharist, let him not open this book! Should he do so, he will be amazed and scandalized. I am going to recount the strangest things, facts the most extraordinary, the most inconceivable, and yet the most certain, as well as the most touching: a God loving man to folly, yes, even to passion! This God, forgotten, despised, betrayed, ignored by man, has not despaired of man. Instead of punishing him, of crushing him, as He might have done, He resolved to conquer him by force of love." (From the Introduction.)

The Loyalist. By James F. Barrett. Pp. 388. \$2.00 net. P. J. Kenedy & Sons, N. Y. C.

A stirring bit of fiction, based on sound historical facts, treating of Philadelphia in the last days of the Revolution. The whole story is woven around the treachery of Benedict Arnold and his dealings with the Catholic patriots. Many little known facts about the history of the Church in those days have been brought to light and fitted into the theme of the story. The originality of the book, its wealth of action and description, all serve to claim the attention of the reading public.

Catholic Home Annual, 1921. Pp. 85. 35 cents. Benziger Bros.

Knights of Columbus in Peace and War. 2 vols. \$5.25. The Encyclopedia Press, New York City.

