

THE FRIARS' BOOK-SHELF

Programs for a Parochial Course of Doctrinal Instruction. For all Sundays and Holydays of the Year. Based on the Catechism of Trent and Harmonized with the Gospels and Epistles of the Sundays and Feasts. Vol. I, Dogmatic; Vol. II, Moral. By the Rev. C. J. Callan, O. P., and Rev. J. A. McHugh, O. P. Pp. 132 and 143. Each \$1.50 net. Joseph F. Wagner, Inc., New York City.

A Parochial Course of Doctrinal Instruction. By the same. Introduction by the Most Rev. Patrick J. Hayes, D. D., Archbishop of New York. Four volumes. Vols. I and II, Dogmatic; vols. III and IV, Moral. About 500 pages each. Vol. I ready; others in press. Sold only in complete sets. Per volume, \$3.50 net. Joseph F. Wagner, Inc., New York City.

When in his zeal for souls the Most Rev. Archbishop of New York recently appointed a Synodal Commission "De Cultu Divino," he instructed its members to provide an official program of doctrinal instructions that would compass all the Church's basic doctrine both dogmatic and moral. Plans whereby the actual needs of the Archdiocese would be met were submitted by Fathers Callan and McHugh. Their scheme was not original; it called for the very remedy the Church has suggested time and again. They would fuse the preaching of the life-giving Word of God with the teachings of the Tridentine Catechism. This conception, unique in its execution, was welcomed by the Commission and heartily approved by His Grace. These ideals found concrete form in the two volumes of programs first cited and in their supplementary volumes.

The two Programs contain the original outlines composed by Fathers Callan and McHugh. They are not mere skeleton-plans, such as the late Monsignor Benson was accustomed to employ, but copious and well ordered nuclei, capable of being developed into instructive discourses or more detailed sermons. The introduction of each gives the scriptural setting and shows the nexus between it and the topic to be treated. Then follow two or three main points carefully analyzed from the Catechism of the Council of Trent. An exhortation or lesson next shows the practical application of the doctrine. Finally, detailed references are indicated whereby the busy pastor may find ready access to a further treatment of the subject in the "Summa" of St. Thomas, modern Theologians, standard liturgical works, and sermons of illustrious preachers. By the aid of these outlines the preacher

will cover in the course of two years the whole field of Catholic doctrine in accord with the liturgical suggestions.

The four complementary volumes, besides the text of the Programs, contain a new rendition of the whole Tridentine Catechism, specially translated by the Fathers for this work, and disposed throughout according to the topics under discussion. After the outlines and the chapter of the Catechism whence they are drawn, there follow one or more sermons by illustrious preachers apropos of the theme. The list of references to standard authorities completes the subject.

To any one aware of the worth of the thesaurus of Catholic teaching known as the Catechism of Trent, completed and approved by Pope St. Pius V and repeatedly recommended by Councils and Popes, this undertaking must make a decided appeal. And how well the authors have succeeded in their difficult task may be judged by the unstinted praise bestowed by the Archbishop in his introduction: "No more timely and valuable contribution to the Catholic pulpit could possibly be made than the 'Parochial Course of Doctrinal Instructions' prepared by Reverend Fathers Callan and McHugh of the Order of Preachers." Besides their official use in the Archdiocese of New York, the Programs have already been adopted in five other dioceses.

The publication of these books greatly increases the debt of gratitude already owed to Fathers Callan and McHugh by the American clergy for their tireless and fruitful labors in the field of clerical studies.

C. K.

Europe and the Faith. By Hilaire Belloc. Pages, 261. Price, \$2.25 net. The Paulist Press, New York City.

In this volume Mr. Belloc presents a sane conviction, formed and perfected by historical evidence: "Europe is the Faith and the Faith is Europe," that is, European civilization is identical with, "exists by, is consonant to, and will stand only in the mold of the Catholic Church." (p. 261). This conclusion is as refreshing as it is comprehensive, in these days when historians have absorbed themselves with the scrutiny of details. No academic habit has narrowed the author's intuition to the squinting vision of the microscopic historian. He sees the story of Europe in the full light of the sun that has given it life, vigor and color. And this sun is the Catholic Faith. Mr. Belloc is simply making a confession of his historical conscience, simply expressing an

intimate knowledge of the European story through identity with it in the Faith.

We need not dwell on the masterly exposition of this remarkable thesis which is proved with the usual Bellocian dexterity in ten vigorous chapters. The force and witchery of his literary genius, the discernment and intuition of his historical scholarship have conspired to make the author's facts convincing. He first shows how the Roman Empire was the nucleus of European civilization. Then came the Church which transformed the Empire into a Christianizing institution, and the Church represented the only true political organism within the Empire. (p. 27). Consequently when the Empire broke up, and the nations arose, the Church was the only central force, and it was coextensive with the pale of civilization. The growth of this organism of the Faith is then traced through the Dark Ages, the Middle Ages and finally the Reformation, with its modern consequences.

Mr. Belloc is to be especially commended for not evolving a philosophy of history, an almost inevitable danger of such a comprehensive study as the continuity of the European story. He merely details those causes, "Largely material, all evident and positive, which lie within the historian's province" (p. 208). He states merely what happened.

We should have enjoyed the book completely if as fair an effort had been made to show the influence of Roman civilization in the outer-Germanies as is done for the case of Britain in the fifth chapter.

This book should do excellent service in Christian Evidence work. It is teeming with stimulating facts showing the power of the Faith in Europe.

D. D.

The Meaning of Christianity According to Luther and His Followers in Germany. By the Very Rev. M. J. Lagrange, O. P. Translated by Rev. W. S. Reilly, S. S. Pp. 378. \$2.25. Longmans, New York.

Lessing in his Preface to "Laocoon," says, "We Germans do not lack systematic books. Just give us a few verbal explanations and we can draw therefrom anything we like. In this we are more expert than any other nation in the world." Protestant German exegesis has borne out this statement to an alarming degree. In the book under consideration, Fr. Lagrange has given a rapid, clear and scientific exposition of the work of German

exegetes, pointing out at the same time the weak spots of every theory that has been proposed to a theory-tired world. Beginning with Luther, whom even admirers now admit was a bungling exegete, there passes before the reader a line of exegetical spectres like to the famous procession in Macbeth. Pietists and Deists are followed by rationalists, mythical interpreters, and eschatologists till our head would reel were it not for the severe logical sequence observed by the author and the clearness with which he exposes the subject. The result is always the same. "German exegesis has, then, constructed no system which is not already destroyed, shaking, or battered down in some of its essential facts." (10th Lect.) This has happened because they have been one-sided in all their interpretations, making text answer to theory.

The work is singularly free from any national feeling, is easy to read, thanks to a good translator, and will prove a valuable manual for the Introduction to Scripture and for Exegesis.

J. J. W.

Sermons. By P. A. Canon Sheehan, D. D. Pp. 397. \$3.00 Benziger Brothers, New York City.

That Canon Sheehan held his own in magazine, lecture and story, the world is a witness. But we call the good people of Doneraile to testimony that the dear Father would turn in the grave, should his angel whisper that by these tokens he has been remembered and not by his ideal par excellence, his priesthood. Too long have we known the creator of Daddy Dan only as a novelist; when, as a matter of fact, he is not a novelist but simply a priest who has written novels.

This volume is a memorial to his priestly activity. It contains thirty-two sermons, representative of his entire preaching career, ten on Our Lord, five on His Blessed Mother, four on Saints, and the remaining thirteen are miscellaneous. The publication of these precious works gives the author a new claim on his clerical readers; containing as they do, both a lesson to those who think they find a condemnation of colored and charming speech in Saint Paul's saying, "My preaching was not in the persuasive words of human wisdom"; and encouragement for those who labor zealously to translate their theological lore into the heart's own language.

As a rule, the sacred orator's secret finds expression only in that subtle—yet to the poor of heart that unmistakable—force which no man can describe but only feel, and which is vaguely summed up in the term, priestly personality. But somehow it seems to have gotten into these pages. At least, so we conclude after reading the latest addition to the Sheehan shelf.

The author's place in literature is assured; the adapting power of his pen is a model for the ambitious-to-write; his planning, choice of language and use of illustration in the sermon make him of inestimable worth to the studious dispenser of God's spoken word. These are a few of the reasons why the world is under debt to the publishers of this volume and to the editor, the distinguished Irish preacher, the Rev. M. J. Phelan, S. J.

C. W.

Evolution and Social Progress. By Joseph Husslein, S. J., Ph. D. Pp. 287. \$1.75 net. Kenedy & Sons, New York City.

The contents of this book will be taken as a soothing remedy by those who have been at all irritated upon confronting the boldly flaunted, though unproved, proposition that mankind is descended from one, uncreated, wholly material, organism. The author distinguishes two kinds of evolution. It may be understood as materialistic philosophy or as a scientific theory. What terrible dangers to society lurk behind the enlightened sociological expansion of this bad philosophy are forcefully set down. Its unhappy votaries certainly lack "a sense of humor." For as to the evidence in support of their gospel of descent, "Expressed in one word it is zero." On the side of legitimate science, however, up among the leaders, are Catholic men of learning, eminent scientists who, like the great Ampère, can interrupt their absorbing investigations to cry out, "Oh, how great God is." The overlapping yet distinct realms of faith and science are plainly marked off. We have nothing to fear from the discovery of new facts. In the words of Father Wasmann we may accept the theory of evolution "just so far as its application is supported by actual proof."

The book is not the dry reading you might expect it to be. A glance at the first chapter or at the last will reveal its literary attractiveness. It would have been more pleasing to the eye if the frequent quotations from authorities were embodied in the context instead of being compressed into the smaller type.—U. C.

A History of the Transport Service During the World War, 1917-1919.
By Vice Admiral Gleaves, U. S. N. Pp. xviii—284. \$6.00 net. George
H. Doran Co., New York City.

The reading of adventures at sea are always fascinating, but never more so than when they are the true stories of Yankee pluck and skill. The transporting of our 2,000,000 fighting-men across the Atlantic, in the face of tremendous difficulties is indeed a unique triumph. The story of this achievement is here told with a straightforward simplicity that gives one a vivid impression of the attending dangers and difficulties, and is written by the Commander of Convoy Operations, the man most deeply conversant with the subject and best fitted to speak of it with authority. In the first chapter is given an excellent account of Germany's strength and the Allies' plight at our entrance into the war, and each subsequent chapter teems with interesting data as to the part played by the Navy and Transport Service in successfully meeting the situation. This book contains one hundred and twenty-seven photographs, diagrams and charts, and the Appendix embodies the records of the service, features which aid in making the volume at once historical and interesting. Lovers of history and admirers of American pluck and ingenuity will give this book a hearty welcome.

A. M.

Handbook of Patrology. By Rev. J. Tixeront, D. D. Pp. 380. \$2.50 net.
B. Herder Co., St. Louis, Mo.

The translator must be thanked for giving us in English dress Dr. Tixeront's excellent "Handbook of Patrology." There is a dearth of such books in our language, and the present concise manual is well adapted to fulfill the need of the many priests and seminarians, who having neither the leisure nor the inclination to make an advanced study of the early Fathers, yet realize the need of having more than a hazy notion of the life work of these Giants of the Faith.

Order is the keynote of the book. A short introduction to each section gives in brief outline the circumstances amid which the writers lived and thought. Then follows the patrology of each period. In treating the various authors, a rapid sketch of the life of each is succeeded by a capable character-criticism, with a few words on the merits or defects of the writer's literary ability. These criticisms win for the work a distinctive individuality. In accordance with his aim to maintain "a line of strict demarcation

between Patrology and Patristic Science," the author offers no discussion of the Fathers' doctrine, save where it is necessary for the better understanding of their work. Quotations from the ancient writings are almost entirely lacking, so that the length of the present volume has not gone beyond the limits required for a convenient manual. Dr. Tixeront's work is well worthy of a place on the Friar's book-shelf.

F. C.

LITERARY DIGEST

Volume III of the **Exposition of Christian Doctrine**, by "a Seminary Professor," is sure to meet with a heart welcome from all acquainted with its predecessors. This concluding number of the series treats on worship, and presents an admirable exposition of the Church's doctrine on prayer, grace, ceremonies and the sacraments. (McVey. \$3.00). **Doctrinal Discourses**, III, by A. M. Skelly, O.P., in every respect measures up to the high standard of sincere, impassioned eloquence set by the author in the first two volumes, and offers a striking contrast to the array of sermon books—and they are legion—whose chief recommendation lies in their narcotic properties. (Aquinas Academy, Tacoma, Wash. \$2.00. We are glad to call to the attention of priests and seminarians the **Commentary on the Epistles of St. Paul**, by C. J. Callan, O. P., to be issued by Wagner and Company in the Fall. The volume will sell itself to all who possess the author's excellent works on the "Four Gospels" and the "Acts of the Apostles." Another work that should prove of interest to Scripture students is Dr. Grannan's **General Introduction to the Bible**, announced by Herder & Co. for immediate publication.

Kenedy & Sons are offering an attractive series of manuals on **Catholic Thought and Thinkers**. The introductory volume by C. C. Martindale, S. J., outlines the plan of the proposed work, and in a rapid, concise sketch of the various periods of Catholic thought, provides an adequate setting for the books that are to follow. With one sentence of the foreword we are forced to disagree. There we read that the series is not to be confined "to those only who are at all points satisfactory, but may contain books on men like Tertullian, Tauler, and Lamennais." Poor Tauler, what company they would have you to keep! Why, the choicest morsel of meat were bound to lose its savor if sandwiched between two such mouldy crusts of bread! We have not space here to treat of the life of Tauler, but enough has been said elsewhere* to vindicate his name, and lift it high above a companionship so disreputable. (Kenedy. \$1.75). **Henry Edward Manning, Life and Times**, by the inimitable Shane Leslie, is soon to be offered to the public by Kenedy & Sons, and should prove an historical work of inestimable value. Students of history will not be surprised at the success of the **Life of Bishop Fenwick**, by V. F. O'Daniel, O. P., which is already in its second edition. (Dominicana, Pustet. \$3.50 net).

* Cf. Catholic Encyc., Vol. XIV, p. 465; Amer. Cath. Quarterly, Apr., 1915; Dublin Review, Mar., 1858; Sermons and Conferences of John Tauler, by Elliott, C. S. P., preface.

Admirers of the "Heliotropium" by Drexelius will read with pleasure his **Considerations on Eternity**. The translation is excellent, and the book itself happily free from those tedious repetitions which won for "Heliotropium" its meed of adverse criticism. (Pustet. \$1.50). **The Altar of God** is the title of an interesting story book of the Mass for children by Mary V. Merrick. The many beautiful illustrations, the simple style, and the apt choice of the stories conspire to make it a book that will surely win and hold the attention of the child. (Paulist Press. \$1.50.) In the **Catholic Hymnal**, by John Hacker, S. J., we meet with all our old favorites, and some other hymns less frequently come upon, presented in a most attractive form. (Schwartz, Kirwin & Fauss. \$0.75.)

Recent fiction has in it much to praise and something to blame. **The Greenway**, an almost idyllic romance by Leslie Moore, introduces us to several worth while characters, and presents a cheerful, optimistic outlook on life, but is so tedious and uneventful in its plot as to arouse from most but a drowsy interest. (Kenedy. \$2.25). In **The Flame of the Forest**, by Constance Bishop, the pendulum swings to the other extreme, for here we have a tale of mystic India, with a plot of more than ordinary interest, sadly marred in the telling by the melodramatic style into which the author too often lapses. (Benziger. \$2.00.) Enid Dinnis, however, has succeeded in giving us in **Mr. Coleman, Gent.** an historical novel of the fascinating times of Charles the Second which in more than merely its plot merits favorable comparison with Benson's "Oddsfish." The author throughout is most happy in her characterization, and the difficult portrayal of the inscrutable Charles she achieves with the hand of a master. (Kenedy. \$2.25). The charms of "Robinson Crusoe" and "Treasure Island" are combined in Jeffery Farnol's latest novel, **Black Barthlemy's Treasure**, a tingling romance of the Spanish Main. Here is action enough to satisfy the veriest seeker after thrills. And yet all is not skull and crossbones; for the book paints splendidly the regeneration of a tarnished character, and abounds in exquisite episodes so delicately done as to leave us marvelling at Farnol's wondrous way with words. (Little, Brown & Co. \$2.15). **She and Allan** meet at last in this newest addition to the celebrated Quatermain romances. Sir Rider Haggard here gives free rein to his tireless imagination, producing an absorbing tale of magicians and red-blooded warriors with plenty for each to do in the heart of Africa's vast unexplored. The plot is sometimes interrupted by excursions into oriental philosophy, which the bored may skip, and the judicious take with caution. (Longmans. \$2.25).

There should be no dearth of good fiction for the summer months. Benziger Brothers have ready a new novel by Isabel Clarke, and will soon issue **A Milltown Pastor**, by J. P. Conroy, S. J. Joseph C. Lincoln, whose "Portygee" won such high praise last season, has just put the finishing touches to a new novel, which will be issued in June by D. Appleton & Co. Doubleday, Page & Co. promise us two exceptional books in **Alice Adams**, by Booth Tarkington, and **Tales from a Rolltop Desk**, by Christopher Morley. Of more permanent literary value should be the new edition of the **Works of Shakespeare** by Sir Arthur Quiller-Couch, already in course of publication, and the English version of the **Plays of Edmond Rostand**, the worthiest successor of Corneille and Racine, to be issued by the Macmillan Company in April.