

THE FRIARS' BOOK-SHELF

Pages from a Hundred Years of Dominican History. By Anna C. Minogue.
Pp. 291. \$2.75. Pustet, N. Y. C.

Like the story of the beginnings of all great movements, that of the inception of the Dominican Sisterhood in the United States is of no small interest. "Pages from a Hundred Years of Dominican History," while explicitly occupied with the telling of the foundation of the present Congregation of St. Catharine of Sienna in Kentucky, is a story of a struggle in the cause of education and charity, which serves to be most instructive and practical, and at times most fascinating.

The work is an enlightening record of stupendous sacrifice. It relates the ups and downs, the failures and accomplishments of those devout pioneer women whose lofty purposes were to sanctify their own souls, to lead others near to God, and to spread Catholic education in America. After recalling the trials and sufferings of that first convent, chapel and school of only one room, the author tells of its growth through the East and West, the North and South into its present splendid condition.

Although the exclusive mission of the members of the Congregation of St. Catherine of Sienna is Christian education, their intensive and extensive endeavors in this field have not circumscribed their Dominican ideal. With the all-embracing sympathy couched in the words "omnia ad salutem animarum"—all things for the salvation of souls—some of these brave women, during periods of war and pestilence, have entered military hospitals, and even have set up hospitals of their own, to render services in the cause of humanity.

"Pages from a Hundred Years of Dominican History" is a generous contribution to the Catholic History in this country. It is an eloquent memorial of work well done and a clarion call to greater effort and success.

Like a good deed shining in a naughty world, this monument to the work of these noble Sisters is a stimulant and a source of courage for those young ladies who are eager to devote themselves to the holy cause of serving God. May it be an incentive to increase that illustrious family of pious women, the Conventual Third Order of St. Dominic.

L. L.

Life and Times of John Carroll. By Rev. Peter Guilday, Ph. D. Pp. 856. \$5.00. Encyclopedia Press, N. Y. C.

Intense scholarly progressiveness has made this book possible. And it is doubly important and noteworthy not only on account of its classic finish, but also because it was so sorely needed.

John Gilmary Shea will always be looked upon with the gratitude and authority that is the reward of a pioneer that has worked hard and well, but even the best of historians are not immune at the hands of time. Shea has suffered in this way, as many things have been revealed that were a closed book to him and cognate and auxiliary sciences have advanced beyond his fondest expectations.

Rev. Dr. Guilday has had the advantage of studying under recognized historical masters, but it is natural ability coupled with real hard work that has made "The Life and Times" what it is.

As was to be expected, the work is thoroughly scientific, all the apparatus of research and criticism being called into play. Nevertheless it is done up in a popular garb. The book is slightly heavy with footnotes and small-faced type but it does not smack of a system that has fallen into some disfavor since the war. It is learned without a doubt, but it is not pedantic.

Carroll is a pivot for the history of the Church in the early days of the republic, and his life is only intelligible and his position to be appreciated when one has a clear understanding of the background, physical, intellectual and spiritual, of the colonial, revolutionary and subsequent days. All this is skillfully done in the volume under consideration. Many of the things mentioned are sure to be an eye-opener to those who have been accustomed to swearing by text-books that are questionable in their accuracy, if not positively partisan and wrong in their narration and explanations of facts. Coming a little nearer home, it is going to be an illuminating volume for many Dominicans who will read for the first time of many co-religionists who have made American Church history.

Too much praise cannot be given the author of this work. From an historical, historical critical, literary historical critical, or any other point of view that a present-day Polonius cannot figure out, this volume is above all adverse comment. J. J. W.

A Wife's Story. By Elizabeth Leseur. Pp. 225. \$2.00. Benziger Bros., New York City.

The Spiritual Life. By Elizabeth Leseur. Pp. 255. \$2.00. Benziger Bros., New York City.

Many complain that an interior life is incompatible with the duties of an active life in the world. The contrary is evident from the life and writings of Elizabeth Leseur. For here was a woman of the world, who while performing her domestic duties most faithfully and suffering most severely from physical ills, nevertheless, advanced rapidly along the ways of perfection.

"A Wife's Story" is the journal of this noble woman. In the Introduction, her husband gives us a brief history of his saintly wife and explains the contents of the book, the existence of which he did not surmise until after her death. As M. Leseur tells us, "the pages (of the journal) were not written day by day but only when the author felt the need to pen out in secret the thoughts and emotions that filled her heart." It is the history of a soul noting the principal stages of its evolutions, a kind of examination of conscience set down by hand.

"The Spiritual Life" contains some other manuscripts of Elizabeth Leseur: Spiritual Retreats, treatises on Christian Womanhood, Development of the Spritual Life, and other religious essays. Most of these were written to relatives and friends urging them to live an interior life. They contain a clear exposition of the interior life and the necessity of living one. The author, having at heart the spiritual welfare of her readers, pours forth with her solid teaching the tender affection of her delicate soul.

Both of these works will be helpful to people in the world as well as those within the cloister. Elizabeth Leseur's mission was that of an apostle; she was ever striving to win souls by her prayers, mortifications, writings and example. Spiritual directors, especially of women in the world, will find these books very useful. Solid doctrine and wonderful insight into others' feelings and difficulties are characteristics of the writings of Elizabeth Leseur.

B. W.

Liturgical Prayer. By Abbot Fernand Cabrol, O. S. B. Pp. 382. \$4.50. P. J. Kenedy & Sons, N. Y. C.

Many books are written on liturgy while a good portion of them remain quite closed by popular consent. Most of the

blame for this can be laid upon the authors themselves. Their works on liturgy are either too detailed and too bulky or only outlines and skeletons; either they terrify the reader at first sight or they are too compact to give place to much interest. Abbot Fernand Cabrol, a recognized authority on liturgical subjects, has avoided Scylla and Charybdis in a very agile and skilful fashion. His Liturgical Prayer is designed for a general audience, being attractive to even the most uninitiated in the secrets of liturgy, and yet satisfyingly complete.

The plan of the book follows the historical development of the Christian liturgy. It shows how the modest beginnings in the primitive Church were crystalized into the sublime and solemn liturgy of our day. The principle services of the liturgy are analyzed into their constituent parts. Then the signification of each part is explained, as well as its history in the evolution of the whole.

Priests and religious will especially appreciate chapters XV and XVI. In these the author gives a short history of the more common liturgical books, particularly the Missal and breviary. He also explains the construction of the Divine Office. No one, after the perusal of the XVth chapter, can escape obtaining a greater appreciation of the mystical beauty of this form of divine praise.

The eighth and last part is entitled "Euchology." In the author's words, "this represents the practical part of the book." In it are contained a number of choice prayers arranged according to the Church's liturgy.

In comparison with Dom Gueranger's "Liturgical Year," "Liturgical Prayer" is more scientific and analytical, less devotional and less extended.

B. D.

Christian Science and the Catholic Faith. By Rev. A. Bellwald, S. M., S. T. L. Pp. 250. \$2.50. The Macmillan Co., N. Y. C.

Much has been written on psychotherapeutics or mind healing, both from a scientific and Catholic standpoint; indeed, it might seem superfluous to add another volume to this large collection. However, even those who have read to their satiety other well informed authors will find much to arrest their attention and interest in this latest work on the subject of Christian Science.

Father Bellwald thoroughly analyzes the subject. Beginning with a brief historical survey of mental healing, he inquires into its basic principles, theories and varied systems and concludes with a digest of the causes that may serve to account for whatever success the movement has achieved. More amply than has ever been done before, he discusses from a distinctly Catholic point of view its philosophical and religious presuppositions, implications and doctrinal statements.

The book is by no means of a rash or polemical character. The author never accepts without proof any charges made against the cult by its critics. When he points out its menace to society and demonstrates the injury already done to some of its victims, his testimonies are well authenticated.

To refute in a logical and scientific manner the tenets of Christian Science, the author shows to be futile and next to impossible, owing to the fact that much of Mrs. Eddy's teaching is fundamentally vague and unintelligible. He exposes the true Catholic doctrine taken from the teaching authority of the Church and especially from the doctrine as explained by the prince of theologians, St. Thomas. The divine character of Christ's miracles he upholds, and defends the Church's prerogative, the permanent gift of miracles, against the scoffs of ignorant and narrow-minded medical practitioners.

This handy octavo volume, because of its completeness and its exhaustive bibliography, might in itself serve as a valuable little library to students of pastoral theology. H. S.

Joining in Public Discussion. By Alfred Dwight Sheffield. Pp. 165. \$1.25. George H. Doran Co., New York.

Many a man with decided views and a fund of experience, eloquent and convincing in private conversation, has sat painfully silent in a lodge meeting, a union gathering or a business conference when vital issues, to which he might contribute valuable information, were discussed. He lacked the training and the confidence necessary to voice his opinions publicly.

Joining in Public Discussion is the first volume of The Workers Bookshelf, a series intended for educational work as text-books in trade-union colleges and also for general reading and library use. This book is designed for these "silent members," to give them a self-start towards influential speaking.

It is intended to be "a study of effective speechmaking for members of labor unions, conferences, forums and other discussion groups." It presents the subject of group discussions clearly and briefly, dealing with the fundamental requirements. It is written with a directness and simplicity of style that should appeal to the class of readers for which the work is intended. Each chapter abounds in practical examples familiar to the average worker.

For the man, professional or artisan, who has never analyzed the qualities that make a speech pertinent and successful, the first section "Qualifying Oneself to Contribute" offers a concise summary of the necessary conditions. After giving a few simple and practical rules for gaining control over voice and bearing to establish good habits for speaking it passes on to the logical and psychological qualities that make for effective public speaking. Particular place is given to the demands upon proper reasoning and the value of the syllogistic method.

Of special interest is the development of the idea of harmonizing the majority and minority opinions of a group, not by a "compromise" but by a "consensus": an adjustment of opinions making the result acceptable to all factions. The application of this "consensus" is shown in the second section, "Making the Discussion-Group Co-operate," which treats of committee work and the use of parliamentary procedure.

Joining in Public Discussion should receive a cordial welcome by the groups for whom it is written. Possibly eighty per cent of the workers today are inarticulate on questions of labor, arbitration and working conditions—all important issues to them—yet they could contribute valuable information to the solution of these and other fundamental problems of industrial society. To convert this latent talent into active power in promoting constructive policies is a worthy purpose for this book.

C. G.

The Spirit of St. Jane Frances de Chantal, as Shown by Her Letters.
Translated by the Sisters of the Visitation. Pp. 457. \$6.00. Longmans, Green & Co., N. Y. C.

Very few masters of the spiritual life, with the exception of St. Augustine, St. Teresa, and her namesake, Soeur Terese, have been able to give a good, clear picture of their inner life in

an autobiography, for the simple reason that they were too conscious of their task. Our choicest views of the lives of saints and mystics have been taken from their plain and easy correspondence with an inner cabinet of friends and disciples. Among the most elevating and enlightening letters of this sort, we may list those of St. Jane Frances de Chantal.

Saint Jane lived in France during the reigns of Henry III and Henry IV. Her father was head of the royalist party, and she was a baroness. On the death of her husband, St. Jane was led by a vision to find her future spiritual director and co-founder of the Order of the Visitation, St. Francis de Sales.

During the rest of her life, covering a period of twenty-seven years, she kept up a constant communication by pen with St. Francis and her subjects. Of this correspondence two hundred and eighteen letters are reproduced.

In these intimate and personal portraits of the saint all her virtues live anew, her simplicity and her gentleness, her far-reaching devotion and her prudence. Probably the most impressive mark of the saint's character, as seen in these pages, is her remarkable conformity to the will of God. She writes: "Humble submission is the touchstone and the fine gold of perfection."

As a superior, she could hardly have had more meekness in the treatment of her subjects, or more insight and command of their manifold characters. Her letters are, if it may be said, so many little lessons in the rules of discipline.

This collection of letters is, in effect, an autobiography, more simple and natural than would be possible for a biographer to produce.

D. M.

The Rising Temper of the East. By Frazier Hunt. Pp. 248. \$2.50. The Bobbs-Merrill Co., Indianapolis.

With many of us it is perhaps a subject of little thought that half the population of the earth is just now awakening from its lethargy of centuries to thoughts and hopes of nationalism and self-determination. Mr. Frazier Hunt, who has recently been appointed special foreign editorial representative for the Hearst Magazines, has interviewed these under-dogs of the Orient, and appropriately titles the result of his lengthy labor "The Rising Temper of the East."

The old East of yesterday is the young East of today. Weary beyond endurance of a foreign yoke, these billion souls are being roused to a consciousness of their rightful position. Theirs is a cry, not only for land and liberty, but too often for proper food and shelter. They know the price they must pay for democracy; but to die for such a cause is, they feel, to live forever. This is the heroic spirit of the great new East; and this is the spirit that usually gains its ends.

The dissatisfaction and unrest of these Eastern colonies has a parallel in our own American possessions. Not, however, in its cause; for "Our Little India" has been educated by America to its present nationalistic aspirations. However, our Haitian occupation has not been altogether stainless.

Before summing up, the author pays a just tribute to the foreign missionary laborers. These Lamp Bearers, as he calls them, are marching on to victory by instilling into the hearts of the natives a love for clean, Christian living.

Mr. Hunt tells his story with a clear, interesting address. He reveals to us the spirit of true patriots conscientiously struggling to rid their land of the dominating Western colonizers. The West has much to give which the East needs and will gladly accept. But even these good things must not be shoved down their throats with bayonets. Beyond this, they desire only to be left to themselves to work out their destinies in peace.

F. A. G.

Indulgences as a Social Factor in the Middle Ages. By Nikolaus Paulus, translated by J. Elliot Ross, C. S. P., Ph. D. Pp. 121. \$1.25. Devin-Adair Co.

As is to be expected from the title of the translation of Dr. Nikolaus Paulus' essay, *Indulgences as a Social Factor in the Middle Ages*, indulgences are not discussed in their theological, but in their sociological aspect. Although a working knowledge of the nature and general requirements for an indulgence is given by the author and translator, our attention is principally directed to the good works which were established as a necessary condition for gaining the indulgence.

Dr. Paulus states in a clear and scientific manner how indulgences, through these good works affected society and advanced civilization, how great cathedrals and churches were

erected, schools, hospitals and many charitable institutions founded, a network of bridges spread over Europe, the Crusades forwarded, prisoners ransomed and finally how peace was created at home by making the Truce of God a reality.

The religious attitude which prevailed in those ages of faith is constantly borne in mind by the author. It is in such terms that he interprets the great social effect such a moral force as indulgences had upon the people of the Middle Ages.

Dr. Paulus has spared no pains in this rather unusual study. Its historical accuracy is well substantiated by official documents and corroborated by both Catholic and non-Catholic authorities. The work is small, but very satisfactory.

Father Ross has wrought a clear and simple translation.

W. R.

DIGEST OF RECENT BOOKS

The State and the Church, expounding the Catholic doctrine on the relations between Church and State, forms the third volume of the social action series of the N. C. W. C. (Macmillan, \$2.25). The encyclical of Pope Leo XIII, "The Christian Constitution of the States," furnishes the bulk of the matter. The latter part of the work outlines the duties of the citizens towards the state. Besides the essays of Doctor Ryan and Rev. Moorehouse F. Millar, S. J., there are reprints of the writings of such eminent men as the late Pope Benedict XV, and Archbishops Spalding and Ireland. Among other things, this work is an irreparable ripping of that threadbare costume of internationalism that some rabids try to lay upon the shoulders of Catholics. Another work of extreme modern interest for its apologetic nature is **Notes of a Catholic Biologist** (Herder, \$1.50). The primary purpose of the Rev. George A. Kreidel is not to offer a treatise on biology, but to show that truth is one and that the findings of the laboratory, instead of being in contradiction to the great spiritual truths of the world, are in reality undeniable corroborations. The facts adduced are unquestionably sound and their presentation and interpretation are made without a bewildering recourse to scarcely understood scientific terms. **The Boyhood Consciousness of Christ**, by the Rev. P. J. Temple (Macmillan, \$3.50), is a study of the reply Christ made to His parents when they discovered Him in the Temple among the doctors: "I must be about my father's business." The early Church saw in these words unmistakable testimony to our Lord's divine Sonship and His coequal participation in the Trinity. Rationalism could not let the text go unchallenged; a half dozen opinions divide modern exegetes, each at variance with the other except in this that the Child Jesus was not conscious of His divine personality at that tender age. The author has skilfully built up arguments founded on sound historical and exegetical method to prove that Christ in speaking these words could have meant nothing less than His divine Sonship. The same scene and the same persons, but a different time, form the setting for **Types of Preachers in the New Testament** (Doran, \$1.00). The Rev. A. T. Robertson, professor in the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, ap-

proaches the human side of the lives of men and women who are frequently mentioned in the New Testament. The style is popular and gripping, the research long and painstaking, but the theological doctrine too often heretical. In one chapter, "James the Man of Poise," the Blessed Virgin is explicitly declared to be the carnal mother of James. Outside of the errors, which deserve unreserved condemnation, the book has a fine main idea and should offer suggestions to be developed along orthodox lines. This early period serves as the opening of **Christian Spirituality** (Kenedy, \$4.00). The Rev. P. Pourrat gives a vast conspectus of asceticism and mysticism as practised by Christians from the time of our Lord till the dawn of the Middle Ages. The author follows the chronological order, presenting first the ascetical teachings of Christ and His Apostles, then those of the Fathers, and lastly later ecclesiastical writers. Numerous and varied quotations are made, thus giving the reader a more exact and personal acquaintance with these early mystics. This volume is the first of a trilogy, whose succeeding parts will cover the periods from St. Bernard to St. Francis de Sales, and from that date to the present day. As an example of the spirituality of the Middle Ages we have **The Love of the Sacred Heart** (Benziger, \$2.00). This is the third volume of a series of spiritual reading on the Sacred Heart. The love of the Sacred Heart was illustrated in the first volume by St. Margaret Mary and Bl. John Eudes; in the second by St. Gertrude, and in this one by St. Mechtilde, the friend and disciple of St. Gertrude. The first part of the book gives the revelations of Our Lord to St. Mechtilde, the second treats of the Sacred Heart while on earth, and the third describes the relations of the Sacred Heart with men. The book is full of devotion and will undoubtedly become a favorite assistance to meditation. It is useful alike for religious and lay people. The latest volume of the translation of the **Summa** now off the press extends from QQ. CI to CXL of the second part of the second (Benziger, \$3.00). This section embraces the last part of the virtue of Justice and the complete treatise on Fortitude. **The Catholic Home Annual** (Benziger, 25c.) for 1923 appears with an exceptionally well-stocked supply of information for the Catholic family. More than any of the preceding copies does this merit the name Catholic Home Annual.

No private soldier in the forces of our country in the late war received so much publicity as the famous Sergeant York. In the past months a work has appeared giving a pen picture of **Sergeant York and His People** (Funk & Wagnalls, \$2.00). The first part of the book details the military career of Sergeant York. Then the author returns to give the setting of York's home life and his education, his training with a rifle, and the feuds of his family. Mr. Sam K. Cowan, the author, gets his study off to a very poor start, but he seems to recover himself in the middle of the work. However, there is such a natural interest in the subject matter that it carries the reader along in its flow. Rising up from matter to spirit in the biographical scale, we come to **Finding a Soul**, an autobiography of a convert, Miss E. E. Everest (Longmans, \$1.50). The subject's father, an atheist, had an extraordinary passion for Beethoven which, together with his infidelity, he bequeathed to his daughter. The young lady studied music in a convent and there she learned that their adored Beethoven received an interpretation from the nuns which transcended her own appreciation and rose up into a struggling to utter grander thoughts than she had ever been able to conceive. Gradually her faith in Beethoven and her knowledge that he had been a Catholic, prepared her to consider more justly the claims of the Church. A wonderful autobiography. **Signs of Sanity** is an attempt to better living conditions by education (Scribner, \$1.50). The

keynote of this excellent treatise is the conviction that an understanding of the complex human organism is necessary if man will overcome the obstacles of disease, insanity, crime, war, and the many other evils that may be traced to an imperfectly balanced mental and physical life. Such cognate subjects as American nervousness, grouches, imagination, desires, obsession, bolshevism and prohibition come in for their meed of explanation. This book is to be well recommended for its high interest and its instructive possibilities for business men and other citizens. The relations of these two groups come in for a more jovial consideration in our next subject. Hilaire Belloc has come through with another bit of original writing. **The Mercy of Allah** is a clever satire on modern business activities (Appleton, \$2.00). Mahoud is a rich, old Turkish scoundrel who is schooling his seven penniless nephews in the art of high finance. Each chapter contains a recital of one of the commercial deals of his life. Though Mahoud is a Turk, it is evident that Belloc is thinly disguising the modern manipulator of Big Business. A twinkling sense of humour flickers throughout and a consciousness of secure indictment makes this book an entertaining confirmation for our grumblings against the H. C. L. One should not attempt to read this work at one sitting; each chapter is a story in itself, and the best result will be obtained by taking chapter by chapter.

When we heard that Gene Stratton-Porter was to publish a book of poems, we feared that she was about to commit a very vain mistake. By honest and patient effort she had become one of the country's foremost novelists. And, now, she was to turn to another and quite different form of literature. What were her chances of success? Most emphatically has she answered. **The Fire Bird** is a narrative poem of the Indians of early times (Doubleday, \$1.75). The theme is beautiful in its simplicity, and it is handled in a manner that heightens its native charm. Without a doubt, this will be one of the most popular poems of the year, and its popularity will not be without reason. By this one instance alone Gene Stratton-Porter has established herself as a real contributor to the literature of this country, and we believe the endurance of her name will depend no less upon her poetry than upon her fiction. From the same golden West comes **In Colors of the West** (Holt, \$2.00). Glenn Ward Dresbach is a steady master of English. His artistry is well-nigh perfect: in the swing of his phrases, in the beat of his line and the ringing melody of his rhyme. The theme is embodied in "In Western Mountains," and whoever reads that will have a fair idea of what to expect of the rest of the book. By far the larger portion of the book is occupied with lyrical poems containing many beautiful reflections on the charms of nature. "I have always said I would go" is a fair specimen of the crystal music and even diction of the best portions of the book. After these we find a lyrist who has a greater meed of Nature's gift of song than either of the two aforementioned, but who has not used it quite so judiciously. **Watchers of the Sky**, by Alfred Noyes, is a mistake in judgment (Stokes, \$2.50). According to the plan the author has outlined, *Watchers of the Sky* is the first volume of a trilogy which presumes to sing the epic of science. In this latest work Mr. Noyes has undoubtedly stepped outside his field, and has miserably stumbled. In those portions where he follows the natural bent of his lyrical genius, he is irresistible. The lyric, "The Shepherdess of the Sea," for instance, is as beautiful a piece of imagery as any one could demand. But the very virtues of this and like lyrics only serves to make the rest seem more lumbering. We are a fond admirer of Mr. Noyes and it is our hope, that some kind friend will dissuade him from

pursuing such a course of writing which can only end in debasing his name among the members of the literary craft. No thought of fame inspired the simple lines of **A Sister's Poems** (Kenedy, \$1.50). They are the posthumous work of Sister Margaret Mary, and are printed only at the solicitation of numerous friends of the author. "To My Cell" is the best poem of the collection. The poems are very simple, unassuming and gentle and must be a silent replica of a tender, departed friend. Don Marquis gives us another and better volume of his peculiar verse. **Sonnets to a Red-haired Lady and Famous Love Affairs** is a burlesque of some of the most famous literature in the language (Doubleday, \$1.75). Bluebeard and the sonnets of Shakespeare get most of the rough handling. Of course, the expressions are crude and vulgar, but it is all a necessary part of the burlesquing. Cleopatra is a grown-up, gum-chewing, cash girl in purple. And now for the really best poetry of all. **Lute and Furrow** is written for lovers of the higher forms of literature (Scribner, \$1.75). Olive Tilford Dargan is undoubtedly gifted with an exceptional poetic insight and feeling. As she proceeds in the development of some of her best work she seems to be gathered up and carried away in her subject. This is strongly in evidence in "Francesca" where the dramatic pitch is at its highest and the scheme of expression most varied. Her desire to abandon herself to her emotion and to preserve spontaneity is, perhaps, the cause of some of the impossible rhyming that she tries to wrench from her words. The first part of the book is the better, since the second carries a good deal of new verse that is not so pleasing. Olive Tilford Dargan exceeds all the authors aforementioned in the elevation of thought, depth of feeling and delicacy of suggestion. Her mechanics are not as good as Dresbach's, nor will she produce the popular effect of Gene Stratton-Porter. The latter will have the best following, Glenn Ward Dresbach is the neatest to read, Don Marquis the most original, and Alfred Noyes the greatest disappointment.

One, by Sarah Warder MacConnell, is a novel of married life (Macmillan, \$1.75). The husband is faithless, but the wife, instead of divorcing him, determines to regain his affection. Substituting silence, trust and fortitude to jealousy and rebellion, she manages to lead her husband to undertake a new period of courtship, from which, we are led to infer, he never withdraws. The authoress has assumed a subject that has attracted the attention of many of the novelists of the day, but she has approached it in a manner altogether foreign to most of the rest. In short, she has offered the only thing one can honestly call a solution to this vexing problem. While we can warmly commend the truth of **One**, we cannot equally admire the workmanship. Just the opposite must be said of **Nene**; the artistry is excellent, but the lesson is poor, very poor (Doran, \$1.75). The scene is laid in the peasant life of the Vendee province of France. Nene is, for the most part, an admirable character who has sacrificed her life for the benefit of some motherless children. In time, the father remarries, and Nene's place is taken by another. She becomes overpoweringly disheartened and ends her life by suicide. Some have dared to compare this with Maria Chapdelaine, but it suffers miserably by the comparison. The gruesome conclusion is rather a contradiction to the strong character of the early pages. Our next novel takes us all the way to Arizona. **Mariquita** is a motherless girl who has spent enough time in a convent school to receive a good foundation in religious life (Benziger, \$2.00). She returns to her father's ranch and her good example produces a marvelous transformation in the lives of the little community. John Ayscough has made a painstaking, psychological study of a feminine religious character from

three different viewpoints. Practically the whole of the book is taken up with this study. There is little narrative to glide the story along, and for that reason it will seem quite dull to those who do not like minute character studies. Light and delightful in a most topsy-turvy fashion is **Through the Shadows** (Macmillan, \$1.75). Cyril Alington has written a very humorous romance, in which new and ridiculous situations hinge on the old plot of assumed mistaken identities. Plenty of action and good clean dialogue. This book could easily be converted into a brisk comedy for the stage. We feel we have something good to recommend to schools and colleges for their get-together show in the Fall. **Eight Comedies for Little Theatres**, by Percival Wilde, is just the sort of thing to suit the circumscribed needs of a male cast (Little, Brown). Some of the plays have no female characters, and in most of them the proportion of female characters is rather low. The plays have freshness, the dialogue is bristling without being racy, and the characters are clever without being too clever. All the plays, save one, are very clean. By proffering them as objects of the dramatic clubs, we do not mean to limit them to that field. Their original end is for a reading audience. But of all this fiction, the gentlest and most pleasant to read, the most salutary in influence is the naive story of Leslie Moore, **The House Called Joyous Garde** (Kenedy \$2.00). The authoress lays the scene around a wonderful old mansion in England. It seems that every one can sense a mysterious buoyancy of spirit about the premises of this fine old place, and for that reason it was named Joyous Garde. This special spirit of joy that is so noticeable is the reward of the protection Dame Gilchrist gave to the village church during the Elizabethan persecutions. It is part of a prophecy that joy will ever be in the House until a Gilchrist will return who is a servant of God in deed and name. Under pressure the descendants of Dame Gilchrist fall away. The novel tells how a Gilchrist, a servant of God in deed and name, returns—with a bride.

Mr. George N. Shuster has essayed the extremely difficult task of chronicler and critic of the Catholic revival in modern English literature. His **Catholic Spirit in Modern English Literature** is a very valuable contribution to the philosophy, history and criticism of literature (Macmillan, \$2.00). The work is, however, neither a complete survey, nor the last word on the subject. We do not quarrel with his acceptance of the terms "literature" and "Catholic." But, we are sorry that some really great Catholic writers have been so summarily treated and that others have been entirely overlooked. What Mr. Shuster has done is very well done, but what he has left undone is regrettable, and detracts from his really excellent work. There is another book of literary criticism that is advertised to rouse much controversy. **On English Poetry** will give rise to more than controversy; it will give rise to laughter (Knopf, \$2.00). Mr. Robert Graves professes to write from the subjective point of view. Mr. Graves' subjectivity is his greatest fault. He has another, though lesser one: rashness and disrespect for tradition. But among the many dry and unintelligible things he had to say there are many more that are very, very good.

The Knight's Promise, by A. E. Whittington, is Tom Playfair with English atmosphere (Kenedy, \$2.00). It deals with the experiences of a young man at school, with his adventure in a cave. There is enough of action, and not too much description, to support the interest of the young. The material make-up of this book is far superior to the average run of juvenile books. There is a profusion of cuts which are always attractive to boys. **Blithe McBride**, by Beulah Marie Dix, is a novel for young girls of fifteen or thereabout. Poor Blithe is an orphan girl who has sold her-

self into service in the American colonies to escape the hateful creditor laws of England (Macmillan, \$2.25). She struggles to persevere as an honest servant, but an obliging act to a friend casts upon her the suspicion of being a thief. In the end, her truthfulness and devotion manifest their beauty. The story is pure and wholesome, there is plenty of adventure, and the interest is uniformly maintained. About the biggest thing in the juvenile world today is radio. Two competent engineers, Mr. Raymond Francis Yates and Mr. Louis Gerard Pacent, have collaborated in the production of **The Complete Radio Book** (Century, \$2.00). The fundamental principles of wireless are simply explained and the history of communication is interestingly outlined. The chapter on the possibilities of wireless reads almost like fiction. However, it seems that not enough space was devoted to the problem of the construction and operation of sets.

