

THE FRIARS' BOOK-SHELF

Ste Catherine De Sienne—Essai De Critique. Par Robert Fawtier, LL. D.
Pp. 258. 20 francs. E. De Boccard, Editeur, Paris, France.

This is an interesting and cleverly written work. The casual reader however is apt to be led on gradually and almost unconsciously to admit judgments previously repugnant to his taste and devotion; the author has made the most out of what are plausible arguments to support a thesis that would snatch from St. Catherine the crown of glory which her contemporaries and tradition have given her in reward of her public life and labors.

The book is divided into two parts. First, a criticism of the hagiographical sources of St. Catherine's life. According to Fawtier the "lives" of the Saint, even that of Bl. Raymond, are of decidedly dubious value. We do not hesitate to admit that the Dominicans did all they could to bring about the canonization of St. Catherine and the confirmation of the Third Order of Penance, but we do not see anything certain in the arguments given by Fawtier to prove that they used unlawful means to accomplish their end. It is the opinion, too, of the great Dominican historian, Fr. Mandonnet, that Fawtier has not lessened the authority of the early lives of the Saint (*Année Dominicaine*, Jan., 1923). The second part of the book is an attempt to verify or disprove the historicity of the facts alleged by the biographers of St. Catherine. It is an able challenge to her brethren and disciples to establish scientifically the traditional account of her public career. Some of his conclusions have already been questioned. The notice in the *Fortnightly Review* (Dec. 1, 1922) disagrees with what Fawtier says concerning the letters of St. Catherine and the scene centered about the execution of Niccolo Toldo. Fr. Mandonnet analyzes and tears to pieces the apparently conclusive arguments of Fawtier to prove that the Saint died at the age of 43 instead of 33. Nor do we see anything in the author's work that can make us doubt the integrity of the private life of the Saint, as the notice in the *Am. Hist. Review* suggests, Oct., 1922, p. 150.

Fawtier thinks (p. 149) that the intensity of her regret would be (serait) a strong presumption in favor of a serious attack of worldliness when Catherine yielded to the entreaties of her sister, Bonaventura, to dress more stylishly. Fawtier knows no more about that incident than what the traditional account gives

and he can find no warrant there for his suspicion. He also (pp. 159-164) tries to draw unfavorable conclusions from the fact that Bl. Raymond is silent concerning the examination of the Saint by the General Chapter of the Dominican Order at Florence in 1374, the only result of which we know is that Bl. Raymond was appointed her confessor. Now even admitting that the authorities were suspicious of the growing fame of one of their subjects and that some did not approve of her conduct, how does that prove anything against the sanctity of her life and the purity of her motives: it is the business of the Order to be slow in approving innovators. If she had been a misguided visionary or worse, would a preacher and teacher as learned and busy as Raymond have been appointed her confessor? There were more secure means than that of preventing heretical and immoral teaching.

For all of Fawtier's destructive criticism however we are grateful because we know now the worst that can be made out of the peculiarities regarding the tradition of St. Catherine, and, after the solution of the objections that we eagerly and confidently await, our sainted Sister will stand out all the more brilliantly in her true light and glory.

—N. F. G.

The Life of Cardinal Gibbons. By Allen Sinclair Will, M. A., Litt. D., LL. D. 2 vols. Pp. 1145. \$10.00. E. P. Dutton & Co., New York City.

No phase of the Cardinal's private and public life has been slighted in these two comprehensive volumes. After treating of his early years, Dr. Will depicts the future leader of the Church in America as a simple priest who, a short time after ordination, became a missionary bishop in the South. He is revealed cheerfully facing the hardships which such a life entails, and devoting his scanty leisure to writing that masterpiece of religious literature, *The Faith of Our Fathers*. Then begins the story of his great career as Archbishop of Baltimore.

Very interesting are the chapters which touch on his relations with the Holy See. They show his great influence with Leo XIII, and the prominent part that he played in the election of Pius X. The account of his part in the foundation of the Catholic University of America, is also of unusual interest, since this great seat of learning already occupies an important place in the Catholic life of the nation.

In these days of industrial strife, the Cardinal's relationship with Labor has a special significance. Those who read this biography will see how Cardinal Gibbons saved organized Labor from what might have been a serious setback when he championed the cause of the Knights of Labor; and how in his last years he rendered Labor another great service when he inspired and signed the Pastoral Letter of the American Hierarchy, that defined the rights of Labor to a "living wage."

This biography is a refutation of the calumny that a Catholic cannot be a good American. It takes chapters to record all the services which the Cardinal rendered to his country, both in days of peace and in times of war. His life is a conspicuous example of the axiom that the best Catholic makes the best citizen.

Written in that easy, graceful style which characterizes modern biography, the narrative is almost as fascinating to read as fiction. But, occasionally, the note of eulogy becomes so prominent that it mars the general effect; yet, on the whole, the author has given a faithful likeness of the great Cardinal.

—J. McG.

The Letters of Franklin K. Lane, Personal and Political. Edited by Anne Wintermute Lane and Louise Herrick Hall. With illustrations. Houghton Mifflin Co. Pp. 465-xix. \$5.00.

This is collection of letters presented in an unusual style. The selection has been so judicious the book might be called an autobiography. Having taken letters that bear on his political, social, literary and religious development, these are strung together with sufficient text to make them coherent and self-explanatory.

After a graceful preface by his wife and a delightful introduction by the assistant editor, Franklin K. Lane speaks for himself. It has been said that the one time Secretary of the Interior under Wilson made near literature out of dry government reports to a diffident Congress, so that it is not very surprising that he should have written letters out of the ordinary.

Lane's enthusiasm for work, for nature and for friends never deserted him and his ever-present youthfulness is perhaps the most striking feature of his correspondence. He could not be heavy or pedantic. Everything he spoke of he touched with a certain artistic literary felicity.

It should not be concluded, however, that every one will or

ought to agree with all that Lane said. His conception of God, for example, is a very vague and unsatisfying one, and indeed, on page 357 a passage trembles on the verge of blasphemy. He is willing to admit that "we have no religion. We have no philosophy.—Agnosticism led to sensualism, and sensualism had its foundation in hopelessness." It is too bad that an open mind such as his should not have been given the saving grace of immovable dogma, on which he could have rested and thrown aside the restlessness that was his portion throughout life.

The "Letters to Elizabeth" are the longest and doubtless the best. In them he developed some of his pet ideas and gave us a clearer insight into his eminently practical common sense.

The price of the volume will seem unduly high only to those who have not read it.

—J. J. W.

William Dean Howells: a Critical Study. By Delmar Gross Cooke. Pp. 256. \$3.00. E. P. Dutton & Co.

The Maturity of James Whitcomb Riley. By Marcus Dickey. Pp. 412. \$4.00. Bobbs-Merrill Co.

In an apologetic study of William Dean Howells, Mr. Cooke has effected his purpose in a scholarly and satisfactory manner. The impartial presentation of it has made this book as entertaining as it is expressive, a book which reveals keen insight on the part of its author. We are permitted to follow the life of this man of American letters through a truly judicious estimate of his literary creations and his ideals.

Howell's fondness of literature began in his early years, during which time his father was the dominating influence. It is interesting to note the inconsistencies of his youth, for, as he himself said, "he never loved any author without wishing to write in his manner." His own experience, however, proved "that style is only a man's way of saying a thing," while a knowledge of his writings clearly shows the high level which he attained as a technician.

It was in his connection with realism that Howells incurred no small amount of censure. He was accused of squeamishness, although he believed that the realist should represent the more agreeable aspects of life, for the "darker moods" are confined to "man's occasional phase." Mr. Cooke thinks that this accusation "will disappear before a wider and deeper acquaintance with his works." Moreover, he is of the opinion that, "as a critical

apostle of the commonplace, he was, on the original minds, a compulsion to fresh beauties and an exactitude our literature had never known." On the other hand, in drawing attention to the casual defects of Howells, his critic does not hesitate to censure the man for "his intolerance in the criticism of anything remotely resembling the traditional machinery."

As a delineator of social life, Howells did not consider the commonplace too insignificant, in fact, he preferred it. "The effectiveness of the novel as a socializing element" was most obvious to him. This was his ideal. He regarded nothing great or small; all was equal. It was this fact which prompted Mark Twain to write in later years, "I suspect that to you there is still dignity in human life." He was, as the author shows, both the advocate and the exponent of clean literature.

Mr. Cooke's conscientious efforts to present this literary leader in a favorable aspect, an aspect that will render Howells due appreciation, are worthy of commendation.

A contemporary of this eminent critic and novelist was James Whitcomb Riley, the beloved bard of Indiana, who, like the former, had similar ideals and desired to see them realized; humanity was their common study, to make people happier and better was their hope.

The early manhood of Riley, as Mr. Dickey tells us in his attractive biography, was taken up with "a wild craving for the stage." When this venture proved a failure, he turned his attention to the lecture platform. Urged on by a few intimate friends, he then endeavored to cultivate his talent for poetry. It was not long before his catchy strains of Hoosier parlance established his reputation in the Middle West, but his efforts to obtain the recognition of the "outer world" were not, at first, so successful. His way to fame and fortune was marked by patient toil, not to mention many reverses. With an indomitable will, he usually met these with a cheerful heart and a flash of humor. The "little kickshaw poet," however, in whose verses smiles pulsate and inspiration abounds, saw the dawn of better times when his first book was published in 1883. His "lodgment in the people's love" was secure. Perhaps no part of the poet's life was happier than his last years on Lockerbie Street, they were years bright in his association with children who delighted in his friendship and, in turn, shared in his love.

As a biographer, sympathetic in his method and generous in his illustrations, Mr. Dickey has been as successful in this work as he was in the "Youth of James Whitcomb Riley."—B. M.

Lincoln. By Nathaniel Wright Stephenson. Pp. 474. \$3.00. Bobbs-Merrill, Indianapolis.

A remarkable presentation of the inner and outer life of the great martyr President. The author gives a well authenticated account of Lincoln's birth and early life, and dispels many of the myths that hitherto have surrounded his childhood. He describes how the boy was influenced, and his thoughtful and deeply religious character developed by early environment.

We follow the family fortunes from Kentucky to Indiana, and thence to New Salem, Illinois, the scene of Lincoln's unsuccessful business ventures. Then comes the sudden and tragic termination of his engagement to Ann Rutledge, an event which was a turning point in his life. His struggles as a lawyer, and his apparent failures in politics until he sprang into prominence in the famous Lincoln-Douglas debates, are graphically depicted.

We are led to a deep admiration of his moderate principles regarding the slave question, and of his firm stand on the question of secession. It is interesting to watch his growth in power until there emerges the Lincoln of history, calm and serene, towering head and shoulders above his contemporaries.

Professor Stephenson has handled his subject in a masterly manner, free from sectional bias, and has furnished an altogether new mode of treating the various phases of the life of Lincoln. It is a most intimate character study, finely written, and is of commanding interest. The author has shown much literary skill, and, by a judicious use of authorities, has made a valuable addition to biographical literature. He gives an extensive bibliography, with valuable notes based on the most approved sources.

—J. A. S.

Darwinism and Catholic Thought. By Canon Dorlodot, D. D., D. Sc. Vol I. The Origin of Species. Pp. 184. \$3.00. Benziger Brothers, N. Y. C.

A contribution of primary importance to the Catholic literature on the very live question of evolution has come from the pen of Canon Dorlodot, the distinguished geologist at the University of Louvain. In a compact little volume of less than two hundred pages the author presents a wealth of evidence—theo-

logical, philosophical and scientific, that must win for his somewhat advanced position the most profound respect.

Briefly, the thesis of Canon Dorlodot is this: There is nothing whatever in the theistic conception of evolution to cause alarm to the Christian philosopher; on the contrary, the quite common Patristic teaching of simultaneous creation according to "*rationes seminales*," the Scholastic doctrine of secondary causes, according to which God does not intervene unnecessarily in the operations of nature, and the ascertained evidence from the sciences of Biology, Geology, and Paleontology, establish as "an absolute and reasoned certitude the conviction of the simple naturalist in favor of a very advanced system of transformism." Copious quotations from the Fathers, especially from the writings of St. Augustine and St. Gregory of Nyssa, are adduced by the author in support of his opinion. The volume is much enhanced by the inclusion, in form of appendices, of extracts from the Encyclical "*Providentissimus Deus*" and of the decrees of the Biblical Commission relating to the exegesis of the account of creation given in Genesis.

The question of the origin of man is not touched upon in the present work; that the author leaves for a future volume. The French original of the work bears the approbation of the Archbishop of Malines and of the Catholic University of Louvain. The accuracy of the English translation, which bears the diocesan imprimatur of Westminster, is attested by the author himself.

The book cannot be ignored by any Catholic philosopher or scientist; and even for those who cannot see the necessity of embracing all the conclusions of the author—and they will be many—it should do excellent service in showing that there is nothing *a priori* in the theistic concept of evolution to prevent its acceptance by the Christian philosopher, should it once be established.

—G. L. C.

The Hymns of the Breviary and Missal. Edited with Introduction and Notes by Rev. Matthew Britt, O. S. B. Pp. 384. \$6.00. Benziger Bros., N. Y. C.

In editing this volume, the most complete of its kind in the English language, Father Britt makes a notable contribution to liturgical study and appreciation. There is a scholarly preface by Monsignor Henry, Litt. D., of the Catholic University, fol-

lowed by that of the editor, to which is added an excellent bibliography. The introduction is a magical key that opens the whole work to profitable use by its short history of Latin hymnody, its exposition of the various meters employed by the poets, and, finally, the instructive notes and tables dealing with the liturgical divisions of the day and night.

The body of the work contains one hundred and seventy-three Latin texts, including all of the Breviary hymns, the antiphons proper to Advent, the four great Antiphons of the Blessed Virgin, the five sequences of the Roman Missal, and a few beautiful hymns not found in the Breviary. Side by side with the Latin text, the editor has placed what he considers their best translations, and below each hymn is given, when possible, the name of the author, then that of the translator, the number of English translations, the liturgical use, and a literal translation in prose of each verse with explanations of the text. The volume is made complete with short biographies of each author and of each translator, a glossary, and English and Latin indices.

Fr. Britt is to be congratulated upon the completion of this work. That he has—to use the words of Monsignor Henry—“achieved a work of scholarly distinction, of elegant artistry, and withal of practical utility,” will be apparent to all who will peruse this beautiful volume. We hope, with its editor, that the work will find its way to those places where it will accomplish the greatest good, namely, every seminary of the English-speaking world.

—B. M.

Companionable Books. Henry Van Dyke. Pp. 391. \$2.00. Chas. Scribner's Sons, N. Y. C.

Confessions of a Book-Lover. Maurice Francis Egan. Pp. 249. \$2.50. Doubleday Page & Co., N. Y.

Dr. Van Dyke has aimed to point out a few “companionable books,” friends that will be faithful throughout the years. Whether he has done so or not may depend upon the individual taste, but at least every one must agree that he has given us a most enjoyable book flavored with his own literary enthusiasm. The work contains a few of the author's classical heroes with a short study and thorough appreciation of each. The recognition of the Bible in literature, and above all of the poetry of the psalms, deserves a vote of thanks from the literary world even if it were not done in the studious, enthusiastic, and scholarly manner in which it has been accomplished. The book on the whole is a

gem which will give much pleasure not only by its frequent sparkle of anecdote, but also by its constant luster of love, appreciation, and study of the makers of our language.

Dr. Egan starting out with the rule "the best guide to books is a book itself," has approached his subject in a less serious way, producing, as he had intended, a few happy, careless recollections of books. But it must not be thought that, for this reason, the "Confessions" have little value as a literary guide; anything from the pen of such an authority is well worth having and when he gives us his personal favorites, as he has here, we have a veritable treasure. From the nature of the book it treats of many more authors than that of Dr. Van Dyke, fortunately for us; for the author of the "Confessions" has not confined himself to the classics, giving us besides these many valuable opinions of late and even contemporaneous literature.

Both books are free from any tinge of controversy since they are not criticisms but simply the authors' impressions of some good books. It will be a pleasant surprise to book-lovers to find two such volumes coming from the press at almost the same time; yet despite their common subject, they are so wholesomely pleasant, so attractively written, that no one will be satisfied with reading only one of them or with reading both of them only once.

—R. W. F.

From Berlin to Bagdad and Babylon. By Rev. J. A. Zahm, C. S. C., Ph. D., LL. D. D. Appleton & Co., N. Y. Pp. 528. \$5.00.

This posthumous work of Father Zahm is deserving of a most cordial reception since it is, perhaps, the best of his books of travel. It contains many wonderful pen-pictures of the natural beauty spots and places of interest which he visited in the course of his journey, and though some few illustrations would not have been amiss, Father Zahm's graphic descriptions render them almost unnecessary.

"From Berlin to Bagdad and Babylon" is, however, no mere travelogue. Its author states that he travelled as a student, and in describing his journey for us he stands forth as an eminent scholar. The prevailing social, economic, religious, and intellectual conditions which he encountered have been given due consideration; but the learned author was attracted not only by things as they are but also by things as they were, so he draws upon the rich fund of legendary and historical lore concerning

the countries through which he passed. It is such information, carefully chosen and skillfully arranged, which gives his book a much wider appeal than it would otherwise have.

In speaking of the Mohammedans, Father Zahm takes occasion to point out that there is a world of difference between the real meaning and the commonly accepted interpretation of the word "harem"; and he asserts, moreover, this opprobrium which perverted usage has attached to the word is undeserved and unjustifiable. He does not maintain that all the Mohammedans are, at present, fit subjects for canonization; but he shows that they are possessors of many natural virtues—such as remarkable generosity, hospitality, and friendliness—for which they are seldom given credit.

Not the least important feature of this excellent work is the extensive bibliography which has been appended; and a complete alphabetical index makes possible its use as a handy and authoritative book of reference on the people and places of the Near East.

—J. K.

Religion of the Primitives. By V. Rev. Alexander Leroy. Translated by Rev. Newton Thompson. Pp. 330. \$2.50. Macmillan, N. Y. C.

No one perhaps is better able to treat the question of primitive religion than Msgr. Leroy since he has made an unprejudiced personal study of the beliefs, morality and worship of the least civilized tribes of Africa, such as the Bantus and Negrillos. What does this study reveal? Is it favorable to Christianity? In his "Religion of the Primitives" the author proves to us that superficial investigators have erroneously asserted that these tribes lack religion, have no family life, and are ignorant of a Supreme Being. The notion that they stupidly adore inanimate things is also exploded, and from his exposition we clearly see that the primitive has a religion which though simple is pure. In the light of comparison of the fundamental beliefs of these savages with those of the ancient peoples some basic principles are found common to all; to explain these likenesses we are forced to admit a primitive revelation. Hence the Church far from being embarrassed by the results of this inquiry comes out victorious, for the universality of the "religious phenomenon" has been demonstrated and its elements are found to be essentially Catholic.

We must note the unprejudiced method of Leroy; he works

on no a priori principles, keeps strictly to the facts, and deduces his conclusions solely therefrom. The subject is dealt with only from an experimental point of view, the Bible being left out of the question altogether. The work throughout is characterized by careful study and the arguments presented carry the force of conviction to every unprejudiced mind. The book will appeal to those wishing to know the customs and beliefs of these people. It gives invaluable aid to the missionary in understanding their religion and language and certainly the scholar interested in this subject will be greatly enlightened. —C. I. L.

Non-Violent Coercion. By Clarence Marsh Case. Century Co., New York. Pp. 423. \$3.00.

Under the term non-violent coercion Dr. Case has attempted to group those extraordinary social attitudes with which the world has laterly become familiar in such varied forms as passive resistance, conscientious objection, the strike, boycott, non cooperation, and like methods of coercive social pressure. However divergent be the ends sought by methods of this kind, the methods themselves have this in common: that they repudiate absolutely the use of physical force. The folly of a rational creature resorting to violence is, of course, in no sense a new doctrine. It was part of the mission of the Prince of Peace to impress on men the passing of the old order that exacted an eye for an eye; and even among the pagans there appeared, from time to time, an isolated philosopher enlightened enough to remark and bold enough to denounce the futility of hatred and vengeance, at least in the relations of man and man. Since the rise of Protestantism there has sprung up a number of sects, such as the Mennonites, Quakers, Dunkers, who not only decry retaliation for personal injuries, but in their horror of strife refuse to bear arms in behalf of the state, no matter how just the cause. From these sects came the greater number of the vexatious Conscientious Objectors in the late war.

The rather negative methods of passive resistance as exemplified in the historic peace sects, and more clearly perhaps in the Conscientious Objector, has taken on a more active character in its modern development, the strike, boycott, and non cooperation. While exponents of these means of achieving social and political justice are no less insistent on submitting to violence if offered and of inflicting none in return, they depart from

the principle of the orthodox peace sectarian in taking the aggressive by directing what pressure they can exert against the invader of their rights.

The author in analysing the various phases of non resistance has wisely avoided discussing the complex moral issues involved, but has been satisfied with an endeavor to understand and illustrate its principles and methods, leaving the future to show whether it will have any great social importance. —P. O'B.

DIGEST OF RECENT BOOKS

HISTORY, BIOGRAPHY, TRAVEL—When besides writing reliable history a man makes it interesting and entertaining he has accomplished a work worthy to be remembered. Mr. Chambers has succeeded in doing this in **Mississippi Valley Beginnings** (Putman, \$4.50), where he traces the history of all that territory once known as Louisiana, vindicating at the same time that part of the country's right to the title of "the melting pot." Mr. Chambers' work is all that can be desired in the way of history; accurate, entertaining, fairminded, penetrating. Another history not one whit less attractive or concise and vastly more important is Dr. Davis' **Short History of the Near East** (Macmillan, \$3.00). The history of Constantinople, for centuries the pivot of the universe, is the history of three continents and a mighty nation; its story, the key of the World War and of future wars. Such a key is the "Short History" in which, though a faulty knowledge of Catholic ideals causes some distortions, facts are stoutly and strongly put forward, historical veracity so strictly adhered to that it goes far towards opening the hoary lock of the Balkan troubles.

Many questions that the student of hagiography or even the casual reader finds himself asking as he views the numerous and ponderous volumes of the "Acta Sanctorum" are answered in **The Work of the Bollandists** (Princeton U. Press, \$2.50), with a wealth, but not a burden of detail, with a directness and sincerity, and with a delicate sympathy for the labors, trials and achievements of his predecessors that only a follower in their footsteps could have expressed. Fr. Delehaye has worked for many years as one of the Bollandists yet his work is not a panegyric but a simple account of the authors and the development of the "Acta Sanctorum." Though not a Bollandist, Fr. Pollen, S. J., has proven himself an able hagiographer in **The Imitator of Christ, St. Ignatius** (Schwartz, Kirwin & Fauss, \$1.50). The author's aim was to give his readers a concise account of the saint's life, and he has succeeded to a remarkable degree. The abridgement has been made without detriment to the essentials, all of which have been tersely touched upon, and, though some of its assertions should not go unchallenged, it is for the most part historically accurate. **The Herald of Christ** by J. C. Reville, S. J. (Schwartz, Kirwin & Fauss, \$1.75), is a biography worthy of the great Bourdaloue. Not only is his life faithfully and graphically portrayed but the tenor of the age is also very clearly depicted, sounding a warning to our own age of loose morality for it was from the corruption of the higher classes that the flames of the French revolution arose. Turning back the pages of history still further E. M. Wilmot-Buxton **Catholic Thought and Thinkers, Alcuin** (Kenedy, \$1.75), gives us an interesting and instructive account of the life and labors of Alcuin in a lucid and concise form, showing us "the part

played by a man who had no gift of originality, who shrank from innovations, and expressly disclaimed either wish or intentions of tempestuous reform." Coming down more nearly to our own times and treating of one of ourselves, Christian F. Reisner in **Roosevelt's Religion** (Abingdon Press, \$2.50), fills a hitherto yawning gap in the biography of one of our great men. Roosevelt is here portrayed as a man of highest ideals whose political principles were formed in large measure by religious convictions which made him a fearless opponent of evil under every form. The work is valuable, not only because of its historical merit, but also because of its high literary character and the extensive and reliable biography appended. **Steel**, by Charles R. Walker (Atlantic Monthly, \$1.75), brings us right down to our own days and troubles by slipping a few pages from a steel worker's diary of a summer's work and presenting them to the public. Mr. Walker, who is not a reformer or an investigator but a Yale graduate and overseas army officer casting about for a job after the "Big Fuss," advances no thesis, defends no doctrine, but simply points out a few pitiful facts that need no fanciful turning to indicate their moral and to awaken the public conscience to the great steel problem. Frederick O'Brien abandons the worries of our modern hive of industry and tells us the story of his travels in the South Sea Islands, **Atolls of the Sun** (Century, \$5.00), not attempting to instruct us but simply to while away a few pleasant hours. The style is leisurely, reminiscent, seeming to smack of the spirit of the islands; while the whole book is most pleasant reading. Unfortunately the morality of the work also smacks strongly of the islands and a number of the illustrations could very well have been left to the savages without doing any serious injury to the volume.

RELIGION, PHILOSOPHY, EDUCATION—Monsignor Kelly, in his latest work, **Dominus Vobiscum** (Matre, \$1.50), has made such a companionable study of the priest as will be of great value not only to priests and seminarians but also to the people by helping them to a better understanding of the work, the trials, the human side of their pastors. The observations and counsels are, of course, excellent; and its earnest and beautifully simple presentation gives the spiritual side a double value by making it delightful reading. Also striving to assist men in their battle for heaven, Dom. S. Louismet, O. S. B., in **The Mystery of Jesus** (Kenedy, \$2.00), shows us the purely mystical side of the spiritual life, yet not in a scientific and abstract way, but rather in a pleasing and practical one that carries all the earnestness and force of a heart to heart talk. **Spiritual Pastels** by J. S. E. (Devin-Adair, \$1.50), brings with it the heavenly fragrance of the purest of lilies gathered in many an hour of deep meditation. It is a series of delicate word pictures portraying the mysteries of the inner life, in language that every one can understand, which bases its self-communings upon sayings and incidents in the life of Our Lord, evoking serious reflection and closing with a meditative way of the cross. Dr. MacEachen has advanced one more step towards the completion of his modern method of teaching the child divine truth by his **Religion, Third Course** (\$1.25) and **Manual** (40c.) (Macmillan). It is the third of a series which when completed will probably supplant the older pedagogical systems on this subject. Religion is presented in its most scientific form in the last volume of the now famous English translation of the **Summa of St. Thomas** (Benziger), \$3.00, which is just off the press. It completes the translation as it comprises Questions LXXXVII to XCIX of the Supplement with appendices, which treat of the Last Things. The story of the heroes of religion appears in an inexpensive edition of the **Lives of the Saints** (Benziger), compiled from Butler's "Lives." It contains the lives of the three lately

canonized saints and gives short reading for each day of the year. A series of shorter lives of the saints, **Patron Saints for Catholic Youth**, has been written by Mary E. Mannix. St. Rose of Lima, St. Catherine of Sienna, and St. Francis Xavier, are among the twenty that make up the series (Benziger, 10c. each). To aid us in imitating these Knights of God, Father Thomas J. O'Brien has edited a new **Prayer-book of Eucharistic Devotions** (Kenedy, \$1.50). Attractive in its arrangement of indulgenced prayers, meditations, Eucharistic Rosary and Stations, besides the Mass of the Blessed Sacrament, it will prove of practical utility both to the clergy and laity. -Another deadly blow has been given to the "Religion of Spiritism," by Father De Heredia, S. J., in **Spiritism and Common Sense** (Kenedy, \$2.00). The author, being a master of harmless magic, finds little difficulty in stripping spiritism of many of its commonly called inexplicable mysteries and showing us what an immense number of the phenomena of the seance room are due to fraud.

Fr. Lord, S. J., has done a great service to the cause of truth and morality in his **Armchair Philosophy** (America, \$1.00). It is a practical refutation of the principal false systems from gross materialism to paper-winged idealism in addition to which it presents the reasonableness of the fundamental doctrines of Catholic philosophy. Rightly called Armchair Philosophy, it is as much at home by the evening fireside of the business man as beneath the student's lamp. Another valuable contribution, though professedly more scientific, is the **Kingdom of Evils** by Southard and Jarrett (Macmillan, \$5.00). It will be welcome to all who would gain an insight into the field of Psychiatry, presenting, as it does, a hundred actual cases of mental disorders and giving a brief discussion of the underlying principles in the diagnosis and treatment of such social problems. The absence of technical cant will appeal especially to the general reader. To forestall unfavorable criticism it would be well to note that Dr. Southard has compiled his principles as a physician and social worker, not as a moralist or theologian. By applying his philosophical principles to a practical problem, John Dewey has produced, in **Democracy and Education** (Macmillan, \$2.25), a most helpful work. Intended as an introduction to the philosophy of education, the book discusses the constructive aims and methods of public education from the view point of the needs and nature of a democratic society, taking into account the development of the experimental method in the sciences, of evolutionary ideas in biology, and of industrial organization. Because the soul and its faculties are not taken into consideration, the explanation of conduct and behaviour is faulty; but from the experimental side, the book has very many good points and should be of great assistance in solving the perplexing problem of education. Dr. Snedden, in **Educational Sociology** (Century, \$4.00), helps the cause along still more by gathering a series of studies on the sociological factors in education, yet, like the preceding work, its aim is not didactic but thought-provocative—not to organize the science of educational sociology but to get teachers themselves to attempt such an organization. Dr. Snedden wrote his book to start discussion, wisely realizing that this was the only way to get at the root of the trouble, hence the apparent looseness of structure and the absence of anything like positiveness in his opinions.

POETRY, LITERATURE, FICTION—It is with a sense of reverent awe and deep respect that we lay aside Father O'Donnell's **Cloister and Other Poems** (Macmillan, \$1.00). It is a little volume of deep thought, charming in its tender simplicity, clothed in a delicately beautiful robe of

verse portraying the inner and more personal reflections of a servant of God. This feeling of holy awe gives way to one hardly less holy, though more humanly tender when one reads the second collection of Padraic Colum's verse, **Dramatic Legends and Other Poems** (Macmillan, \$1.50). Four long dramatic poems open the book, followed by what the author calls "Reminiscence," consisting of shorter poems. Here with a few delicate touches and with an intuition peculiar to the Celt, some characters and aspects of Irish life are beautifully portrayed, while with his own tender longings for the Motherland, Mr. Colum has managed to faithfully describe those heart-aches which only the exile can feel. John Dos Passos' book of free verse, **A Push-cart at the Curb** (Doran, \$1.50), leaves one very quiet and sad, but not with the beneficent sadness of deep meditation or sweet memories; it is rather that of sincere regret that the genius evinced by the author in some of its numbers should descend to the general foolishness and trash of the rest. In **Memoriam and Other Poems** by Martin Feinstein (Seltzer, \$1.25), is guaranteed to destroy anything like peace or quietude in the mind of the critic and to rouse strong indignation that such excretions should be called poetry. The book displays variety, for the author has given us almost everything from practical atheism to theoretical Zionism, expressed, in free verse and regular rhymed meters, in a manner sometimes good, usually common, crude, and coarse. Though we do not propose to accept these last two authors as exemplars of modern poetry still it is a relief to turn to **Rainbow Gold** (Macmillan, \$2.00), Sara Teasdale's new anthology of most of the old and many of the later favorites. Professedly a book for children, it is attractively prepared and illustrated and will prove pleasant reading for both young and old.

It may be the old story of misery loving company but anyway after playing the part of poetical judge for a time it is consoling to see another man at the same work, especially when he is going into it a little more dangerously than others. Most of us are quite satisfied to admit that the critic has his hands full. Not so Mr. Maynard. Not satisfied with the ordinary troubles of the art, he has calmly invited the fire of whole batteries of "intellectuals" by selecting the "best" contemporary English and American poets **Our Best Poets** (Holt, \$2.00). The book gives that solid satisfaction that comes from watching the expert at his work, for Mr. Maynard can criticise poetry in a manner to delight his readers, especially his American readers; every step in the criticism is confident, positive, every word a challenge to the world. A challenge which, by the way, few but men of equal scholarship and love of letters will dare to take up. Another author who staves off the wholesale slaughter invited by his daring opinions only by sheer ability and cleverness as a literary critic is H. L. Mencken. In **Prejudices, III Series** (Knopf, \$2.50), the "enfant terrible" carries his swaggering style through three hundred pages of cynicism, self-contradictions, and gratuitous assertions, but interwoven with some very clear minded views of present day affairs and men. Inconoclastic in his tendencies, the author smashes through the familiar "lares" and "penates" but brings nothing to replace the traditional beliefs he would level to the earth. Going quite to the other extreme, Lewis Mumford, abandoning things not only modern but real, has attempted, in **The Story of Utopias** (Boni, \$3.00), to build a substantial structure from thin, very thin, air. He has succeeded in giving us an interesting study and criticism of the various classic conceptions of "the good life." But like all its predecessors, this volume is marked with the general characteristics of such books—the ascendancy of the imagination over the reason and judgment, and a riot of extravagant fancy with little sense of inconsistency, improbability and impossibility.

Peter Clark McFarlane comes forth, in his latest novel, **Man's Country** (Cosmopolitan, \$2.50), as the chivalrous knight doing battle for the fair sex. Mr. Hutchinson has been so severe with the ladies of late, that the author of "Man's Country" comes to the rescue by showing the other side of the story—just what business can do to a man even though his love is really sincere. It is a story of intense love which because it is intense manages to come out on top of the struggle. The characters are well drawn, the plot well sustained, and the whole story far above sentimentality or weakness of any kind. Joseph C. Lincoln in **Fair Harbor** (Appleton, \$2.00) goes a step or two farther, or at least makes his hero do so, in his care for mankind's better half when he institutes a floating home for mariner's women folk. The many awkward situations in which an ex-sea captain finds himself while piloting this strange craft provide plenty of laughter, while a very true to life romance skillfully woven into the story keeps the reader in agreeable suspense. Like all of Mr. Lincoln's works it is clean to the last word, as refreshing as the sea of which he writes. The scene is shifted back to solid earth by Mrs. Rinehart in the **Breaking Point** (Doran, \$2.00). A newspaper man, a murder mystery, auto-suggestion, and the typical spirit of a country town are the ingredients of this latest and, perhaps, best of Mrs. Rinehart's novels. With her pleasing style the authoress draws the divergent ways of her characters into one harmonious whole, attracts and holds the attention of the reader, and, the best proof of the book's worth, makes us conjecture the subsequent actions of her characters. Picturesque California is the scene of two of the latest romances which, however, are as different throughout as two stories can well be. **The Gates of Olivet** (Macmillan, \$2.00) by Lucille Borden opens in that earthly paradise but quickly moves to the environs of Paris. Here we are shown the part that sorrow and pain play in our lives but it is not pictured to such a degree as to cast a tragic shade upon the rest of the story. It is a beautiful Catholic romance whose Catholicity does not consist in ponderous dogmas or a puritanic moral written in capitals. It deserves to rank with the best of modern novels. The historic mission country when the ideas of democracy and equality were beginning to play havoc with the Spanish system of caste, is the background of Harry S. Drago's **Suzanna** (Macaulay, \$1.75). The author has built up a spirited tale of love and adventure, of strife and its final surcease—"they lived happy ever after"—around this problem of marriage of high and low born. Though the plot is far from new and at times poorly handled, the setting and character portrayal are good. The story well merits reproduction as one of the big screen successes of 1923. A family, criminal by heredity, involved in a perplexing murder mystery in England is Eden Phillpots' latest contribution to fiction. **The Red Redmaynes** (Macmillan, \$2.00). Although most of the action takes place in England, the most famous sleuths of Scotland Yard are hopelessly baffled and the mystery remains unsolved until a American detective is called in to clear up everything in a jiffy. The American is undoubtedly a little overdone, a little too clever, but when that has been said the unfavorable criticism is finished. It is a good detective story, not too much blood and thunder, nor an overdose of psychology.