



# FRIARS' BOOKSHELF



**An American Apostle, or Life of V. Rev. Matthew A. O'Brien, O. P.** By V. Rev. Victor O'Daniel, O. P., S. T. M. Pp. 332. \$3.00. Dominicana, Washington, D. C.

Like grain before a mighty wind, people are swayed by the artful talk of mellow-voiced speakers. They yield to the opinions of the orator. Yet the victory is transient. Another orator will quite as easily instill contrary opinions. The historian is more forceful than the orator. People tire of colorings, and yearning for the plain truth, finally rest content in the offerings of the genuine historian. There is no appeal beyond the truthful statement of an historical fact.

Fr. O'Daniel, historiographer of American Dominicans, offers in his new book an unvarnished candid tale of a lofty character among American Churchmen. It is a Simon Pure narration of a man who by sheer hard work multiplied his talents and went to his grave a hero and a model to his brothers; it is a scientifically accurate record of the life of a good man; it is history. And so it rises above the merits of oratory, it transcends the power of the editor and essayist, it appeals to reason and satisfies the popular craving for truth.

The story, without much pretention to literary grace, starts with a fine summary of Ireland's history and the genealogy of an illustrious royal family. The hero having heard the King's secret, comes to America to realize the great calling. Cheerfully mounting altitudes of sacrifice, he is ordained and starts on an apostolic career surpassed by few Americans. What especially interests us is the subject's simplicity, ruggedness and zeal. Many interesting anecdotes relieve the dullness which some find in a volume of solid history.

The book lays bare something that has been a secret to many—the Dominican novitiate. It gives fine glimpses of American and Canadian Church history, things extremely interesting and excluded from standard histories for the mere sake of conciseness.

Were we permitted to speculate, we would venture to say that the book easily equals ten modern best sellers for plot and character. "Main Street" here is a trail from Canada to Mexico, the apostolic "Wanderer of the Wasteland" tames "Rough Hewn" men, and lights the "Dim Lantern" of faith in "The Cathedral" of America. The hero is chivalrous, alive, appealing—"One of Ours," an historical person whose memory is still lovingly fresh in the minds of Western people.

Hardly any one who claims to be interested in the American Church and Dominicanism can afford to pass up this splendid contribution to history. The octavo volume is a mine from which the reader can dig the precious ore of solid knowledge and accrue much profit to himself.

—P. C. P.

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**The Significance of the Fine Arts.** Pp. 483. \$3.50. Marshall, Jones Co., Boston, Mass.

The fine arts embrace many of the common activities of mankind; the building and furnishing of the home, the church, the school, the public building, the housing of every industry, the building and beautifying of cities and the providing of places for rest and enjoyment. It is in order that the general public may know the importance of the fine arts, that it may know their origin and development and become acquainted with the best art of all ages and hence better understand and appreciate the work of modern times, that this volume on the Significance of the Fine Arts has been written.

The book is composed of ten essays on architecture and the allied arts by ten of their leading representatives in this country. The principal architectural periods are clearly and thoroughly considered, and it is shown how the different styles represent and have been developed from the customs, habits and daily life of the people. The chapter on Modern Architecture is especially complete, describing the new methods of construction, the new problems of design and the modification of old modes by the new era of mechanical development. Painting and Sculpture are briefly but ably and interestingly presented. Landscape Design and Town Planning are chapters of special importance in this age of great cities. In the consideration of the Industrial Arts particular emphasis is given to the simple principles upon which they are founded, which the manufacturer must know if he is to produce good design in his products, and which are

equally important for the purchaser if he is to select the best his money will buy. Lastly, to complete the treatment of the fine arts, there is a chapter on music which aims to help the reader understand what is best in the art and to secure for himself that pleasure, that appeal to the emotions, imagination and intellect which music is intended to afford.

The volume is written for those who heretofore have had no interest in the arts and who do not realize how intimately art is connected with our every-day life. It contains a treasure which even casual reading can easily draw upon, but which long study cannot exhaust. Its spirit is a sincere appreciation and deep love of art, and although one or two of the essays are somewhat clouded by false and irrelevant reflections in Church History, still the book is, on the whole, well calculated to inspire interest not only in itself but also in the arts to which it is devoted.

—W. H. K.

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**The Genius of America.** By Stuart P. Sherman. Pp. 269. \$2.00. Scribner's Sons, N. Y. C.

Stuart P. Sherman holds an enviable place among contemporary literary critics. Keenly cognizant of the problems of the age, a preeminent position enables him to view them with the air of an impartial observer. A lover of all that is American, yet he does not blindly love. In his eyes, American letters are as an impetuous stream which would turn aside from its time-hewn bed and venture forth into forbidden country. "The Genius of America" is an attempt on his part to dam this reckless onflow, and turn back the stream into its proper channels.

The younger generation of writers has failed to appreciate the true significance of Beauty. They rail at the bogey of Puritanism and dream of the emancipation of art and morals. They are in arms against our national genius, and such a procedure can but terminate in literary suicide. Sooner or later "it will be found—that the artist who does not in some fashion concern himself with truth, morals and democracy, is unimportant, is ignoble."

After all there is nothing to fear but much to love in wholesome Puritanism. A Puritan, according to our young people, "is any man who believes it possible to distinguish between good and evil, and who also believes that, having made the distinction, his welfare depends upon his furthering the one and

curbing the other." That, as we should all concede, is "just ordinary horse sense."

Seven other papers follow, among which are "A Conversation on Ostriches," "Vocation," and "The Shifting Center of Morality." The whole work is flavored with a spice of wit, by means of which Dr. Sherman drives home his serious doctrines. We find no platitudes; but rather we are likely to run across many passages which appeal to us as novel, and perhaps run counter to some of our cherished opinions. We have here, on the whole, a remarkable document; profound, finely finished and destined to evoke a storm of controversy.

—J. L. C.

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**The New Poetry.** Revised and Enlarged Edition. Pp. 640. \$3.50. Edited by Harriett Monroe and Alice Corbin Henderson. Macmillan, N. Y. C.

A book valuable both for its selections and for the introductory notes in which the editors clearly show us what the new poetry is. This will undoubtedly be of special interest to a multitude of persons who, pressed by time and circumstances, are unable to form for themselves an adequate opinion of modern endeavors in poetry. It will save them from the error of conceiving misunderstanding for understanding and, misguided perhaps by earlier ideals and prejudices, of losing themselves in the labyrinth of unenlightened criticism. Such a procedure would not only bring confusion upon themselves, but what is more deplorable, tend to retard the further progress of poetry in legitimate and desirable fields.

To avoid such an occurrence the editors inform us that the new poetry, though greatly different from that of the past century or so, yet shows no disrespect for poetic tradition. It deviates from the old, since it is a reversion to more primitive types, seeking an authentic vitality of theme, simplicity of form, and modern speech. It contains a fuller note of sincerity, and bans the tinsel of an overwrought ornamentation. Nevertheless, it upholds tradition because of its lavish and unrestricted use of the older forms. That poetry produced under such ideals must of necessity be more universal in tone and appeal can be easily understood, though what its final outcome may be is not for us to know.

The selections represent the best work of the past five years in addition to the contents of the original volume published in 1917. It gives us many recent poems of authors cited before,

and a number of new names. The poems themselves in many instances are the best vindication of the new departure in poetic activity, although the major portion of them will most likely have but a transitory existence. These latter, however, will serve as an opening for the future and more enduring work, and have for this reason been countenanced by the editors. We cannot refrain from lamenting, however, the general unchristian tone of the anthology, the inspiration of the poets quoted seldom raising them to an authentic conception of the Eternal Beauty.

—G. H.

**A Memoir of Mother Francis Raphael O. S. D. (Augusta Theodosia Drane).**

Edited by Fr. Bertrand Wilberforce, O. P. Pp. 572. \$4.20 net. Longmans, Green & Co., N. Y. C.

When a person has been dead for thirty years, ordinarily there is scant memory of him left among men, and the influence which he may have exerted when alive is now long faded. However, when a persons succeeds in warding off the pall of oblivion, we may justly conclude that he was a remarkable character. Today, the memory of Mother Francis Raphael is still fresh and her influence still orders the lives of many people. This is so true that a third edition of her life has become a necessity, and Fr. Bertrand Wilberforce, O. P., has applied himself to the task with added enthusiasm. The fruit justifies his labors.

The new life has the charm of clearness, simplicity and telegraphic brevity. (But 164 pages of the 572 are dedicated to the life). For the most part, Mother Raphael speaks for herself, so our study is direct and personal.

The story of Mother Drane's childhood is refreshingly human; her conversation, full of tender pathos; her religious life, a mirror of zeal, industry, compassion. We are sublimated by the reading, we feel the warmth of ardent faith that burned in her soul, and our own borrows from it to advantage. The picture of a very learned woman humbly consecrating her many talents to the service of Christ in the Third Order of St. Dominic is an inspiration and a reminder that saints still people the earth.

Extracts from correspondence give us a deeper insight to her noble soul, while the remaining two hundred pages, containing able and pious expositions of gospel stories, meditations

and reflections, reveal the diligent superioress anxious to give to her subjects, in chapter assembled, the wholesome bread of doctrine. Altogether, the book is a pleasing narrative of the life of a heroine, a spiritual treatise, a manual of contemplation and a well-spring from which all religious, especially Dominicans, may draw the living waters to freshen their spiritual life.

—P. C. P.

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**Le Breviaire Explique.** (2 vol. 2nd edition). By R. P. Charles Willi, Redemptoriste. Pp. 699. 12 fr. P. Tequi, Paris.

Blessed Bellarmine once wrote that of the many who read the psalms daily, few were those who understood them. Recently a similar criticism was made (The Homiletic and Pastoral Review; June, 1923; p. 966) concerning those who are bound to the recitation of the Divine Office. The author offered as a remedy the closer study of the Breviary.

It seems almost providential that Fr. Willi should have launched his second edition at such an opportune time. The original size of his work has been increased considerably. The learned writer dwells at some length on the causes of the bad recitation of the Breviary. Chief among these is ignorance of the Church's prayer. His purpose therefore is to assist priests and religious to understand better the Canonical prayer, not so much from the rubrical as from the liturgical point of view.

The book is divided into two parts. The first is a general introduction bearing on the sense, history, elements and plan of the Divine Office. The second part contains a translation (Latin and French texts) of the hymns, psalms, and canticles of the seasons and of the common. The excellent rendition of the psalms, accompanied by a brief analysis of each, indicating the spiritual interpretation of the text, deserves special commendation.

The explanations of the various parts of the Divine Office are solid, scientific, pious and full of unction. The work as a whole is very practical. The common mistake in such matters, of giving way too much to the imagination, has been cautiously avoided. The style is highly interesting. No one who has once read these volumes, can help but have a deeper appreciation of that great sanctifying book, the Breviary.

—B. D.



**Industrial Democracy: A Plan for Its Achievement.** By Glenn E. Plumb and Wm. G. Roylance. Pp. 352. \$2.00. B. W. Huebsch, N. Y., and The Plumb Plan League, Washington, D. C.

When the late Glenn E. Plumb proposed his program for the solution of the railroad problem it immediately attracted marked attention, was endorsed by the American Federation of Labor in the 1921 convention and is still widely discussed. Industrial Democracy is the "Plumb Plan" enlarged to embrace all public utilities and basic industries. It is offered as the one solution whereby industrial justice may be secured for the capitalist, the laborer and the public.

The plan is a proposal for the reorganization of industry on a basis of Democracy; but the "industrial" democracy, as proposed by Mr. Plumb, is not the traditional "political" democracy. Control of industry is not invested in the majority vote of all workers, but in a tripartite "Board of Directors representing equally management, labor and the public." There is no "capital" group. Industries are classified in two general groups: the one including National, State and municipal utilities which embraces transportation, communication, power and water systems; the other covers all industries dependent upon natural resources and also natural and economic monopolies.

All of the industries of the first group are to be owned by the Federal, State or municipal government, but operated by corporations. The corporations, however, will have no capital stock and will issue no bonds. It is these corporations that the Board of Directors govern, but other public bodies are charged with the rate-fixing function. Surpluses arising from efficient operation are to be divided into two equal parts; one half as a "public" surplus to be used for extensions, betterments and to reduce rates; the other half to be proportioned between management and labor, but not in equal ratio. Management receives the larger share "on the basis of wages or salary earned."

The second group, the basic industries and all incidental industries not of the public utility character are to be corporation-formed and privately owned by such persons as may desire to invest labor, money or property in the enterprise. The investors of either money, property or labor share in any surpluses that may arise in the business.

Such is the briefest outline of Mr. Plumb's proposal. How he would bring about the change in a peaceful manner; how it

would work in particular industries, such as coal; and its anticipated effect upon foreign trade, credit and agriculture, are all features that are worked out in some detail. Much valuable space is given in the introductory chapters to the history and analysis of Democracy before the plan is unfolded. While many serious objections might be proposed to Mr. Plumb's plan, it is, nevertheless, an earnest and serious attempt to solve our perplexing industrial ills, marks a real advance towards that end and represents the thought of many labor groups. The work carries the endorsement of sixteen Presidents of the Associated Standard Railroad Labor Organizations. —L. C. G.

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**The Passionists.** By Rev. Felix Ward, C. P. 1923. Pp. 462. \$4.00. Benziger Bros., New York.

This smoothly running narrative from the facile pen of Father Felix presents the story of the Passionist Fathers in a delightful and fascinating manner. Starting with a brief life of St. Paul of the Cross, their founder, and a synopsis of the origin of the congregation, the author leads up to its labors in England, treating intimately of Cardinal Newman's conversion and his reception by Father Dominic, C. P. Thence across the sea to America, the historian reviews briefly the "Oxford Movement" in this country. The major part of the book is devoted to the history of the Passionists in America. Short biographies of the founders in America, the Superiors and missionaries, and a few famous converts, among them Dr. James Kent Stone, with a history of the missions and retreats comprise this division of the work. A brief account of the Passionist nuns takes up two chapters and another is given to the sons of St. Paul in South America. There is a beautiful account of the youthful St. Gabriel; his canonization, as witnessed by the author, is very admirably described, and the book closes with several deserved encomiums to the Congregation of the Passion on the event of the bicentenary anniversary.

Not merely a history, this work is made more interesting and engaging to the reader by its digressions in the manner of beautiful traditions and personal memoirs. The historical narrative is pleasantly broken by the very human sketches of renowned religious. Father Felix has had the advantage of spending fifty years in the congregation and of living with many of the pioneers and founders in this country. Hence he is fully



acquainted with many interesting traits and mannerisms of these illustrious and venerable men. The winning human character of Father Anthony Calandry, the saintly founder of the Passionists in America, is attractively portrayed. A few experiences of the missionaries add to the general interest of the work. There are pages of excellent spiritual reading to be found in this book. A great devotion to the Sacred Passion of Christ and an inspiration to the priestly life breathes from many passages. It is good reading for the cleric, priest and religious, and not less so for the layman.

—J. J. R.

**The Merchant Marine.** By Rear Admiral Wm. S. Benson, U. S. N. Pp. 183. \$1.75. Macmillan Co., New York, N. Y.

This book is the second of the Knights of Columbus Historical Series. The purpose of this series is "to encourage investigation into the origins, the achievements and the problems of the United States; to interpret and perpetuate the American principles of liberty, popular sovereignty and government by consent; to promote American solidarity; and to exalt the American ideal." The History of the Merchant Marine, its importance and necessity as a safeguard and source of national prosperity are the objects of the present study.

During his long period in the naval service and especially as director of Naval operations during the World War and as member of the Shipping Board, Rear Admiral Benson was in a position to study the vital importance of an adequate merchant marine. His work sets before us in a clear and compact, yet comprehensive, manner the career of our merchant marine and how its former strength and efficiency may be reestablished. Nor does the author pass over lightly the handicaps and difficulties which beset American vessels in competition with foreign vessels. He states them candidly and at the same time gives the means by which they must be overcome.

This book, like the first of the Knights of Columbus series, is a valuable contribution to our national history. —B. W.

**Creative Spirits of the Nineteenth Century.** By Georg Brandes. Pp. 478. \$3.00. Thos. Crowell Co., N. Y. C.

**The Nineteen Hundreds.** By Horace Wyndham. Pp. 271. \$2.50. Thos. Seltzer, N. Y. C.

Dr. Brandes' "Creative Spirits," aside from giving us a critical analysis of their works, shows the inner life of men who,

in his opinion, were "spirits" of the last century. This list includes such men as Anderson, Mill, and Garibaldi. The author's profound understanding of diverse natures is patent, and they suffer little from his sympathetic hand. By him they become attractive and fascinating. His opinions, although at times forceful are not always convincing.

St. Joan of Arc was condemned by a local court under Bishop Cauchon's presidency, not by the Church, as Dr. Brandes would have us believe. Between these two there is a marked difference.

Although the "Nineteen Hundreds" is in some respects biographical, it has little in common with "Creative Spirits." It is a volume of memoirs concerning people with whom Mr. Wyndham has rubbed elbows at times in his life. To all intents and purposes, the author has gone out of his way to appear humorous, but even here he has had difficulty in distinguishing between humor and obscenity. In most cases the passages referred to do not bear repetition. We do not deny his ability to criticize, but as a humorist he cuts a sorry figure. The chapter on "Readers and Writers" is interesting and not without some truth. His statement that "Americans are simple souls where their dramatic tastes are concerned," is indeed highly complimentary.

In one instance he remarks that he has "a very refined style when required," however, this is questionable. Usually it is tedious; his telegraphic and parenthetical tendencies are worse; and his repetitions are frequent.

When, at the close of the book, he tells us that "things are bound to have stepped in here and there that would doubtless have been better omitted," we regret that this came as an afterthought. The American public appreciates something wholesome, not nonsense, or worse.

—C. B. M.

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**Life and Confessions of a Psychologist.** By G. Stanley Hall, Ph. D., LL. D. Pp. 623. \$5.00. D. Appleton & Company, New York, 1923.

Life, in a sense, is boxing the compass. Born in an atmosphere of sentiment, it swerves in youth to the west where hope, ambition, and progress dwell. In ripe manhood it is facing the north, with cold crystal reason at the acme of its power. In old age, it fronts the east, the perpetual symbol of history and reminiscence. As Stanley Hall adds: "We do not know it until we have viewed it from all these points of the compass."

At seventy-seven G. Stanley Hall has written his life-story. In it he surveys the events of his long career, the numerous and delightful human contacts he found therein, the long struggles to attain his ideals, his successes and failures in his chosen fields of research—education and psychology. A great man and a good man stands half-revealed—stripped to the buff of all disguise,—as he knows himself, and as he desires others to know him.

It is the story of one born and raised on a New England farm. The pages devoted to his childhood and experiences of his boyhood are interesting if for no reason other than the fact that they portray a phase of New England life which has largely passed away. Student days at home and abroad are followed by his work at Antioch College, Johns Hopkins University, and finally at Clark University as its first president. Dr. Hall has long been recognized as one of our American pioneers in the department of psychology. His genial mind and character have garnered for him many friendships from all parts of the world; a record of several of these is given in his autobiography.

Stanley Hall usually says things in a way that is at once attractive and stimulating. There are some differences, however, in his manner of thinking, and ours. His science, from the way we view it, is often too far advanced to be really scientific. Stanley Hall is a thorough-going evolutionist, in the vanguard with such men as Osborne, Conklin, etc. Much of his psychological doctrine is an avowed departure from what moderns so intelligently (?) call the "traditionary" teaching. (We take no umbrance at the title; we shall hold fast to it until something better appears). Still there are good things to say about Stanley Hall's writings. We like his style of speaking; not the dogmatic or flippant type that casts down the gauntlet to all opposition. He is not afraid of criticism; he invites it, not for its own sake, but for the healthful and corrective influence which it very often exerts upon thought. Whatever may be the divergencies of our views, we must confess our admiration at the large and generous nature of such a man.

—E. B.

## DIGEST OF RECENT BOOKS

*POETRY, LITERATURE, FICTION*—Visions of the genial kindness of Longfellow and the droll humor of Riley arise before the mind as we read the latest volume of Edgar Guest's poems, **The Passing Throng**. (Reilly & Lee Co., Chicago, \$1.25). He is fast taking his place along side of our other poets of the home who have won such an enviable place in the hearts of the people. This recent work breathes the same homelike atmosphere predominant throughout his previous publications; couched in simple readable verse, the little volume of one-hundred and eighty pages has a song or a lament for all the various moods and stations of life. The old and young, the sad and the gay of heart, the father, the mother, the lover, will seek and find in "The Passing Throng" all the sentiments and pleasures that hover around the family fireside.

**In the Neighborhood of Murray Hill** (Doran, \$2.00) helps to keep the family circle as well as the family pocket-book intact by saving us a trip to New York. It is better than the trip; you avoid the crowd and yet see all that makes New York; from the cosmopolitan air of Fifth Avenue to the joys of a child's Toy Land and the trials and troubles of Hurdy Gurdy life the book simply lives. Besides meeting the best known literary men, you enjoy the richness of a wonderful personality, that of the author, Robert Cortes Holliday. We have a view of literary persons and things from the other end of life in **De Senectute** (Appleton, \$3.00) by Frederic Harrison. Mr. Harrison was one of the oldest and, at the same time, most notable survivors of the great Victorian Age; this collection of his essays was prepared in his ninety-second year and death found him examining the proof sheets. The first of the essays records "the thoughts of one entered on his ninety-second year of life" and is a charming dialogue full of genial wisdom backed by a vigorous personality. Then he gives us interesting and intimate glimpses of the Victorian Era, its persons, events and manners, ever coloring his narrative with a delightful personal touch. His critical studies of poets and novelists, both English and foreign, display a remarkable width of vision and depth of knowledge; but his last essay on a "Philosophic Synthesis" in which he pleads the cause of Positivism, adds nothing to an otherwise excellent collection of essays. Just why Aline Kilmer let her **Hunting a Hairshirt and Other Spiritual Adventures** (Doran, \$1.50) slip out of the family closet and appear before the public will probably remain a mystery in spite of the valuable clue given on the book jacket which informs us that it is a "book of grave nonsense and light-hearted philosophy." It is indeed a book of nonsense but it were far better that it had never seen the light of day for Mrs. Kilmer's flippant attempts at humor fall far short of their mark and make the reader wonder why the author ever took the trouble to put such poor material on perfectly good and innocent paper.

In the realm of fiction there is much to make one feel glad that he is living in such a prolific age where quality is not seldom joined to the visible quantity. The first bit of good news is the appearance of one of Frank Packard's mystery stories, **The Four Stragglers** (Doran, \$2.00). It is a rattling good novel of mystery, yet it differs widely from the author's "Jimmy Dale" series to which it is somewhat inferior, at least in so far as the hero of the present work is not the likeable crook who operates only to rectify wrong but is the real dyed-in-the-wool crook who takes his trade and everything else in sight seriously. There is not a likeable trait in Shadow Varne and his colleagues, the butler Runnells and Paul Cremarre,

three of four stragglers who meet for the first time on the battlefields of France; thus it is with a fine sense of poetic justice that he is brought to his doom just after the greatest crime of his career. However, the police do not get him—this is one of Packard's criminals. The adventures in business and love of the real war hero is followed in **The Escapade of Roger Drew**, by Frank Dilnot (Stratford, \$2.00). Roger assumes a false name to avoid meeting the wealthy mother and sister of a buddy he had befriended at the front; of course he meets them anyway, and of course in the end he marries the girl. A rather flat piece of humor. The story hinges on the old plot of mistaken identity which is positively childish at times. It is a thoroughly harmless piece of fiction; but that it about all that can be said of it. A recent bit of fiction by Seumas O'Kelly (Stokes, \$2.00) has rightly been called **Wet Clay**. Gloomy in its narration, faithful in picturing the dark side of things, with a plot that pictures failure personified. A young American of Irish descent goes to the land of his forefathers and unsuccessfully attempts to supplant the traditional methods of country livelihood by modern ideas; the love story worked into this agricultural plan also proves disappointing.

**The Manuscript of Youth** (Dutton, \$2.00) despite its classic title, is but another war story. The tale is set in the north of England, moves to London and incidentally takes in the battlefields of France. The plot is far from stirring, but it is a wholesome novel and couched in well-chosen language. Miss Patrick excels in her bits of description, and her portrayals of nature in northern England will well repay a perusal of the book. The war is forgotten and we are carried back to the days of the wild and woolly West in Emerson Hough's **North of 36** (Appleton, \$2.00). The heroine, left alone as a proprietor of a great ranch and herd of cattle for which there is no market, makes the whole story by driving the herd all the way to Kansas to find a market and incidentally finding love on the way. The book has a strong historical setting with which the author is plainly familiar and presents a stirring picture of the old West.

A character sketch that is really a success and at the same time a bit of fiction really worth reading, is **Lanty Hanlon** by Patrick MacGill (Harper, \$1.90). Lanty, the hero, the greatest man in the parish of Ballykeeran in the west of Ireland, is a man of tremendous ability, physical and mental; but he is cursed with the "thirst" and money slips away from him quicker than he can make it. The story tells of his eccentric, aimless life, promising prosperity only to end in failure at each new adventure. Lanty is of the stuff of which are made great men—and fools. A very interesting book, as true as life to human nature, rich in detail, and vivid in character portrayal. It abounds in incidents of real humor, while the author actually succeeds in getting the warm Irish flavor into his writing without misspelling every other word in an effort to portray the brogue. A failure only because of its poor characters is Jason Strong's pretty romance, **The Starlight of the Hills** (Pustet, \$1.75). Taking for the foundation of his story the quite evident truth that in these days of political, social and industrial unrest the growing child can not be too carefully guarded, he shows the results of socialism imbibed by a Catholic young man in a modern university. The story is laid in Kentucky and Long Island and is a real pleasure to read for it breathes a respect for religion and is clean throughout; but alas, the characters.

There is still another treat in store for the lover of the mystery story in **Baroque**, by Louis Joseph Vance, which has thrills and unexpected twists and turns aplenty. (Dutton, \$2.00). The plot is swift-moving, telling a tale of crime, romance and revenge. Although not told with the care that was



manifest in the "Lone Wolf" and some of the author's earlier novels, it is ingenious and cleverly constructed. After a glance at many picturesque Italian characters and a young American lawyer—who happens to be one of the best heroes Mr. Vance has invented since the "Lone Wolf"—the setting shifts to Naples where the inner circle of the deadly Camorra is seen at work; "the net of fate is complete, the hour of doom strikes for the guilty and the hour of freedom and happiness for the faithful." **Whoopee**, by Father O'Neill, S. J. (Benziger, \$1.25) is just another boys' novel, a sweet day dream; but then it was written for boys and as that is one of their chief delights, it will be popular. Wish, the hero, a lad too poor to take in the joys of summer camp, is enabled to do so by virtue of a chance meeting with the President. The rest of the book deals with adventures met with at camp, and after such a flying start don't be surprised at anything that may happen.

**RELIGION, EDUCATION, PHILOSOPHY**—Recently, while preaching in his New York church, the Reverend Dr. Percy S. Grant gave utterance to a series of sermons whose aim was to bring the religion of Christ up to date. These sermons have been collected in book form under the title of **The Religion of Main Street** (Am. Library Service, \$1.50). Unfortunately the book form has not improved them and they sadly need improvement. His "improved religion" strikes one as a great stew whose ingredients must have been egotism, stupidity, ignorance, added to some cleverness of speech and whose odor permeates the nation only to awaken pity for the poor Protestantism which must feast on such fare. Seeming to come as a direct reaction to this way of looking at religion, **Pro Vita Monastica**, by H. D. Sedgwick, (Atlantic Monthly, \$3.50) proves a thoughtful and thought-provoking volume. Much of it is based on the works of St. Benedict, St. Bernard, and Thomas a' Kempis, especially where it advocates a return to prayer, meditation, self-examination and the use of spiritual exercises. But, like most attempts of human reason to search out the truth unaided, it is more or less of a failure; a personal devil is rejected, a vague, general notion of God is proposed, and solitude and contemplation are made the ends of religion and life instead of a means to the Great Eternal End. Still "Pro Vita Monastica" is a step in the right direction, towards that interior life which is the sole salvation of the world and the only source of true contentment. With the solid rock of truth to rest on Father F. Woodlock, S. J., replies with a positiveness and certainty that will brook no argument in his answer to an attack made on the Mother of Churches. **Constantinople, Canterbury, and Rome**, (Longmans, \$1.25.) There is none of the empty braggadocio and guesswork of Grant, none of the pure theories of Sedgwick; the arguments are fired with crack of a machine gun and with even better aim. Bishop Gore, the Anglican antagonist, has thus occasioned another useful exposition of the truth in regard to religious affairs in England, with which the book deals.

**Memento de Vie Spirituelle**, by R. G. Gerest, O. P., P. G. (Lethielleux, Paris, 7.50 fr.) is a highly scientific treatise containing all the essential notions relative to spiritual progress according to theological principles. The author's position in the diverse controversies regarding this matter is made clear in the Introduction, while the body of the book is given over to the demonstration of his theory by solid arguments. The work, however, can be recommended only to those who are anxious to obtain an exact scientific knowledge concerning a life which is loved more and more in proportion as it is better understood and lived. The outstanding feature of the volume is the chart of the theoretical development of the spiritual life. Msgr. Lejeune bends his energies to the solution of some practical prob-



lems of the struggling soul in his latest work, **Conseils Pratiques pour la Confession**, (Lethielleux, 4.45 fr.). It is intended primarily for those who find confession hard and for those who experience difficulty in keeping their confession from becoming a matter of routine; but confessors, also, will find it safe and practical as a source of sane and correct direction. It undoubtedly seems strange to hear any one devotion laid down as the principle of the whole religious life unless it be that of the Eucharist itself; yet this is what J. Gauderon, S. T. D., has claimed about the Sacred Heart and, moreover, has supported his claim by theological arguments in his **Sacre-Coeur de Jesus** (Lethielleux, 4 fr.). The author is a disciple of Bl. Eude, one of the contemporaries of St. Margaret Mary, who was after the saint perhaps the greatest authority on this excellent devotion. Yet this theory will be called into question only after some deliberation and by those who are willing to give the subject considerable attention, for the volume is written in a heavy style that requires patient and serious study.

Those who wish to assist at Mass in strict accordance with the mind of the Church should by all means procure a copy of the new edition of **The Roman Missal** (Benziger, \$3.75). The complete Latin text of the Missal is given, and in parallel columns the English translation appears. The liturgical and explanatory notes which are given when necessary, together with a brief sketch of the life of the Saint whose feast is being celebrated constitute a useful and instructive feature. The proper use of this book will enable the faithful to follow, word by word, the full text of every Mass at which they assist, and will also lead them to a fuller understanding and deeper appreciation of the words and actions of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. The collection of prayers which has been added renders possible its use as a book of private devotion and really makes the work two books in one. Though containing an abundance of material it is no larger than many of the devotional books now in use, and we feel safe in saying that it is the finest work of its kind that has as yet been offered for the use of the laity. The Benedictine Convent of Perpetual Adoration of Clyde, Missouri, has also done its bit in bringing the Mass closer to the hearts of the faithful by issuing a number of pamphlets some of which deal with devotions at Mass, particularly in connection with the devotion to the Blessed Virgin. Among these are also included other titles such as **Mary Our Mother, Under Mary's Mantle**, etc., which should prove an effective means of intensifying an already popular devotion.

The professor of Church History at the Grand Seminary of Versailles, Burnet, has made a historical study of the first three centuries of the Christian era entitled **Le Christianisme naissant**. (P. Tequi, Paris, 8 fr.) In very concise form it deals with the expansion of the Church and the struggles it had to undergo. Particularly interesting is the chapter on the internal organization of the Church and on early Christian preaching. It is rather surprising in a work of this kind that the author cites French authorities almost exclusively, referring occasionally to translations of German writers. **La Morale du Christ**, by Stanislaus Reynaud, (Tequi, 5 fr.) takes up the Catholic doctrine regarding God's revealed law, man in his relation to this law and the destiny of the soul and body. The treatment, in a clear brief style, deals successively with the existence and necessity of this law, the excellence of the Counsels, the influence of Christ's teachings on men, and finally takes up the problem of immortality; and all in such a thorough, comprehensive manner as to be an effective answer to modern scepticism and atheism.

E. Le Bec attacks scepticism in an indirect way by coming forth in defense of miracles, that excellent proof of the divinity of Christ and His

Church. (**Medical Proof of the Miracles**, Kenedy, \$2.00.) It is a careful and scientific search into the physiology or clinical evidences of supernatural cures, by the president of the Bureau of Constations at Lourdes, whose salient theme is to point out the folly of attributing all phenomenal cures to suggestion, will power or imagination. Throughout the study the physical aspect of sudden cicatrization is considered at length, the metaphysical being abandoned to the theologian, while it is pointed out that the arguments against miracles in this field are nothing more than hypotheses that have gained authority only by means of repetition. The Bishop of Versailles, Msgr. Gibier, has chosen to dilate on an old theme. (**La Salut par l'Elite**, Tequi, 6 fr.) Just as nature progresses by short stages, so too the order of grace. God does not save a whole people in an instant; rather He raises up some noble character around whom, little by little, a choice band is formed, and thus in time the whole multitude is won over. "Salvation by means of the elite"—this is the lesson of the centuries. Today the world bids fair to lapse back into Paganism: to us devolves the duty of bringing it back to Christianity. We must be the Elite through whom the world is to be revived. Then follows the program, the duties of the Elite in helping the Masses, containing many valuable hints to social workers.

After following the birth of the Church and its early history, an explanation of its chief doctrines, an examination of its proofs, and giving a brief glance at its modern program, we are introduced into its mystical life by Dom. S. Louismet, O. S. B., in his **Miracle et Mystique**. (Tequi, 5 fr.) The work is the third of a series written on mysticism for the purpose of dispossessing many Catholics of the notion that it is something unattainable and to give a true idea of this state which ought to be the normal development of the life of grace. The book is mistitled as all but two chapters deal with mysticism exclusively; the author's idea of mysticism is a bit too broad as is also his extension of the miracle beyond its proper boundaries. In spite of these defects the work is simple and attractive, popular in its appeal, pleasant in the style in which it is written. **Lettres de Msgr. de Segur** (Tequi, 3.50 fr.) distil abroad an element most necessary for spiritual advancement—a spirit of peace and repose. The letters show in a pleasant and undogmatic way the easily forgotten truth that the one thing necessary is Divine Love; their appeal, however, is directed by their sympathetic tone especially to those afflicted by physical suffering.

Father R. V. O'Connell, S. J., takes us beyond all need of earthly comfort by expounding the entire Catholic doctrine on the angels in a book of remarkably easy reading. (**The Holy Angels**, Kenedy, \$1.50.) Our guardian angels, those "specially honored among men," receive special attention in three beautiful chapters, as do also the three Archangels, Michael, Gabriel and Raphael. The purpose of the author is to rekindle that flame of devotion and love for the Holy Angels in the hearts of adults which burned there in early childhood; and if it can be done by the written word Father O'Connell's work should be a success.

Like most books that treat their subject in a general way, **The Apocalypse of St. John** (Kenedy, \$1.75) by C. C. Martindale, S. J., is much more readable than the more scientific works that delve into the minutest details. It is not a commentary treating verse by verse, but rather an essay on and about the Apocalypse, its relation to ancient prophecies, its structure, its reception and its receivers. The author has confined himself to the general meaning and the principle thread of the book and does not touch on those points which only confuse the mind; his object being to present to the reader clear and specific ideas of the Apocalypse. Writing also in a general

way and limiting himself to a pamphlet of eighteen pages, V. Rev. Wm. Hogan, C. SS. R., effectively treats his subject in spite of its magnitude in **The Bible** (\$0.05, International Catholic Truth Society). The book gives a short history of the Book of Books, an explanation of the Canon, shows the proper use of Scripture, and deals with the common errors concerning it. It is timely, as such a work will always be, brief, thorough, and clear.

So much has been said and written against the movies from almost every point of view that their possibilities as an aid in the class room have been overlooked in the melee and are as yet somewhat of an unknown quantity. **Motion Pictures in Education** (Crowell, \$2.50) by Don Carlos Ellis and Laura Thornborough is a treatment of the subject that will prove of value to all who are interested in our pedagogical system. Facing the problem squarely, the authors array the pros and cons in orderly fashion while stress is frequently laid on the point that pictures can never supplant but only supplement our present day methods of instruction. Lists of films now in circulation together with suggestions for using them indicate the practical trend of the work.

**A History of Dreams**, (Small, Maynard, \$2.50) by A. J. J. Ratcliff, adds to the penetrating studies which have already been made on that subject a valuable treatise that may be characterized as literary rather than experimental, and hence more attractive and enjoyable to the average reader. In brief fashion the author reviews the history and meaning of the dream for all peoples and times, Greeks, Romans, Chinese, and Hebrews; from the Middle Ages, through a progressively scientific interpretation down to the present widely-accepted theory of the Freudians who regard the dream as a wish fulfilment. The author's aims are always conditioned by literary interests and consequently he is able to discuss his subject in an artistic and non-technical manner. Approaching the age-long dream of perfecting the world, John Losabe in **What Is Wrong?** (25c, Encyclopedia Press) disposes of the difficulties which have long puzzled our pagan statesmen in a pamphlet of some thirty-five pages and does it thoroughly. He shows us the only way possible to get back to normality; how men can better live together in peace and contentment, laying emphasis on the necessity of a God-given authority to guide man in his dealings with his fellow man, calling attention at the same time to man's rejection of God. The little volume reveals much thoughtful work by a keen intellect which has been put on paper in a laconic and sententious style that could have easily been expanded into volumes though it could hardly have been better done.

**HISTORY, BIOGRAPHY, TRAVEL**—It seems to be human nature to sympathize invariably with the under-dog and it is this trait that makes history the interesting story that it is; for there always has been and always will be an under-dog. The story of Ireland's struggle against her powerful foe has shone forth with an added glamour, a distinguishing touch of nobility and sacrifice, possibly because of the length of the struggle or because of the motives inspiring it; nor is this more true of yesterday than of today. **The Drama of Sinn Fein**, by Shaw Desmond (Scribner, \$4.00) has all the attraction of the usual history of Ireland added to the fact of its being the account of personal experiences. The straightforward rehearsal of the tragedy of the Easter uprising to present day conditions, a tale of grit eminently portraying Irish patriotism, human throughout, makes a vivid picture. The story of men who have made the great sacrifice, not for their own homes or country but that the heathen might know the true God is told in a friendly and chatty way by Father Walsh. **In the Homes of Martyrs** (Catholic Foreign Mission Society of America, Maryknoll, \$1.00). He paints a series of quaint and beautiful pen

pictures of these heroes and their surroundings in the Orient and turns what otherwise might be a depressing narrative, into a source of real entertainment. **The Conventual Third Order of St. Dominic**, by a Dominican of Stone, (Benziger, \$1.25) makes no pretense to a brilliant account of striking heroism but it is the desired and fitting apology of Dominican Regular Tertiaries, those little known giants of sacrifice who willingly forego the inspiring mead of human praise while they daily perform deeds of greater courage than the leaders of nations. It was written in the pioneer congregation of Regular Tertiaries in England and presents the claims of unquestionable adherence to the spirit and work of St. Dominic and of the manifest tendency toward the primary end of the first and second Orders. This union with the first and second Orders is clearly outlined in the history of the third order regular and its development in England, where the necessities of a struggling faith prepared its work.

Samuel S. Marquis has been fortunate in presenting his **Henry Ford** (Little, \$2.50) to the public just as Mr. Ford is at the height of his political aspirations; at such a time anything and everything concerning the man will be eagerly devoured by the public curiosity. This is not meant, however to cast any reflections upon the book, which is an earnest endeavor to present his subject as he knew him and Marquis is a friend of Mr. Ford of twenty years' standing. It is not a biography but a study of the man himself, his lights and shadows, his outstanding characteristics, not always admirable, his ability as an organizer and manager. His changeableness and impetuosity, his habits of simple life, his home life, his attitude towards religion, labor, charity, and the multitude of other subjects on which for some reason or other, he is considered an authority, are all exposed with the heartlessness and kindness of a surgeon's knife.

**St. Gabriel, Passionist**, by Father Camillus, C. P. (Kenedy, \$1.50) is the account of a youth who rose above all the shams and frivolities of the society in which his wealth and political position had placed him and ascended the ladder of sanctity to the very altars of the Church. The work gives a clear concept of the religious life and stands, not only as a monument to St. Gabriel, but also as a road map for those who would follow in his footsteps. Father Campbell, S. J., also gives us in outline the life of one recently beatified, **Blessed Robert Bellarmine** (Encyclopedia Press). Despite the small size of the pamphlet all the principal events of Bellarmine's life are considered in an energetic and flowing style that will carry one through this busy career in a half hour's reading.

A more thorough sketch and much better done is that of **Father Price of Maryknoll** (Catholic Foreign Mission Society, Maryknoll, N. Y.) The narrative, after telling of Father Price's thirty years' labor in North Carolina under the most trying circumstances relates how he devoted the last years of his saintly career to the Vineyard of the East. The charm and inspiration of heroic example and apostolic zeal permeate the whole work. **Marie de l'Agnes Dei**, (Macmillan, \$2.25), recently translated from the French of a religious reparaître by M. P. Hill, S. J., has no record of exterior sacrifice and great deeds to give it interest; but it has no need of such things for the simple letters of this devout religious covering the period of her novitiate and the few years until her death makes the reading of them more than a pleasure. The great love manifested in her letters for her parents and loved ones at home convinces us with still another proof that the religious life does not destroy parental affections but all the more increases them.

Charles Hanson Towne has the faculty of putting into print the atmosphere of the places he visits and in his **Ambling Through Acadia** (Cen-

tury, \$2.50) he has drawn a good picture of the people and places in the land of Evangeline. His language is that of the beauty worshipper who sees the utility of nothing but the beautiful; in fact, so ecstatic does he become in the admiration of so inspiring a thing as an apple blossom that the reader, after wading through whole chapters of sweet gushings, sincerely hopes that he may never again be called upon to down anything more luscious than vinegar. Pleasantly different in her manner, Edith Cowell in **Up and Down Lourdes** (Benziger, \$1.25) gives a fairly good account in clear language devoid of all ostentation of the many incidents one will meet with while at this blessed spot. Whilst almost too practical to fall into the class of pure travel books it will prove valuable to those contemplating a visit to Lourdes who have not the time to acquaint themselves with the conditions prevailing there through the ordinary means of guide puzzles.

**MISCELLANEOUS**—All who with tired eyes and aching head have frantically thumbed producers' catalogues to locate the play suitable for their amateur club, school, parish, lodge or college will learn with joy that their labors are over if they secure **A Catalogue and Review of Plays for Amateurs** (Loyola Univ. Press, Chicago, \$2.50). Miss Cecilia M. Young has compiled a catalogue that is a complete bureau of information on clean, wholesome plays for the varied amateur needs. It is the long looked for White List for amateurs. Those who have nursed tired eyes and aching heads from other sources and have been forced to listen to long tirades on the wiles of My Lady Nicotine during the process of recuperation will find comfort in the appearance of **Tobacco and Mental Efficiency** (Macmillan, \$2.50), by M. V. O'Shea. It is, if all the statistics and laboratory experiments can be taken as reliable, an impartial inquiry into the tobacco question. Like many other works of its nature, this one proves little more than the fact that tobacco has played the dual role of helping many of the greatest thinkers of the world while clouding the mental processes of other famous men, though the evidence seems to favor the smokers. Any reader will enjoy the varying testimonies of many distinguished persons, observations made since the discovery of tobacco, and so on, all treated of from a purely mental viewpoint; while the abundance of data makes the work valuable in a scientific way. **The Road Away From Revolution**, by Woodrow Wilson (Atlantic Monthly), is a small book of some ten pages of most positive truth, sound reasoning and real remedies for present evils but it contains nothing new. Christ preached some such doctrine two thousand years ago; it has ever been voiced by His Church in the intervening ages, not so long ago in a striking manner by Pope Leo XIII. **A Book for Boys**, recently gotten up by the boys of Aquinas High School, Columbus, Ohio, is a series of short stories, sketches, and accounts of most everything that could prove interesting to a high school pupil. The contributions are the work of the boys themselves and besides being a means of encouragement to the youngsters show many signs of budding talent.

