



Catholic Builders of the Nation. Edited by C. E. McGuire, K. S. G., Ph. D.
5 volumes. \$25.00 the set. Continental Press, Boston.

Longfellow telling of the last act of the dying Norman Baron and his efforts to set things aright before his long slumber, thus sings:

But the good deed, through the ages
Living in historic pages,
Brighter glows and gleams immortal,
Unconsumed by moth or rust.

If one good deed merits thus to glow and gleam what shall be said of the myriad deeds of the Catholic heroes on our shores? "Catholic Builders of the Nation" has gathered these deeds—a precious heritage—into historic pages in order that the present and coming ages may know of our Faith's contribution to our country's upbuilding.

The purpose which Dr. McGuire, who edited the series, had in view was to state clearly and comprehensively the extent of the Catholic thought and character in the development of the United States. The realization of this purpose required a wide field of research, the cooperation of over a hundred writers and a correlated plan of exposition. The five volumes now offered to the public are the result of several years patient effort. No field of activity has been neglected in this monumental work. The first volume contains the historical background and the relations between the Church and State—the general scope of Catholicism in the building of the nation. Subsequent volumes treat of particular contributions—the contribution of the different racial groups and the social work of Catholic organizations; the important activities of individual Catholics in science, industry and public service; the contribution of the liberal professions; and finally, the contribution to religion and education.

The separate articles, of which there are over 125, have come from the pens of women, clergy and laity, well qualified

to undertake each particular topic. The names of these contributors are for the most part familiar ones to Catholic readers. The articles are not written in a controversial or argumentative vein. The purpose was not to attack or to defend, but to relate and record. At times the writer's zeal for his cause leads him to cite names that might better be covered with the mantle of charity and silence, and at other times slight errors in names and facts occur; but these minor imperfections do not obscure the general high character of the work.

The set is a valuable addition to our Catholic products and is indispensable to libraries, both Catholic and secular, to schools, to the home, to non-Catholics and to all Americans who are interested in seeking the truth regarding the development of our nation. It is a competent witness. Its testimony adequately refutes the malicious charges leveled against us by the designing; and it offers, for those who persecute us through ignorance, an easy avenue to learn the facts regarding Catholics and America. The work deserves a cordial welcome. C. G.

Philosophy of Art. By Jacques Maritain, translated by Rev. John O'Connor. Pp. 179. 10s. 6d. St. Dominic's Press, Ditchling, Sussex, Eng.

Art Principles in Literature. By F. P. Donnelly, S. J. Pp. 144. \$1.50. Macmillan, N. Y. C.

Dramatis Personae. By Arthur Symonds. Pp. 358. \$2.50. Bobbs-Merrill, Indianapolis.

Christ in Art. By Mrs. Henry Jenner. Pp. 174. \$2.00. E. P. Dutton, N. Y. C.

"Philosophy of Art" is a very small book that has something to say, knows what it has to say and says it. A very strange book. The title is an epitome of the manner in which the subject is approached: no side-stepping, no apologies, no excuses; just facts offered in a straightforward way that is irresistible. It is a treatise on art based "on a philosophy, wholly philosophic, wholly Christian, and therefore wholly Catholic." In fact it is nothing more than a rendition of the wondrous Thomistic doctrine on Art and the Beautiful into modern language, and its application to modern topics in a way that they cannot very well resist or sustain—and by the way, the author also knows what to say on these modern topics. Art is not something wholly subjective, as the moderns would have it; nor objective as the ancients taught, but a blending of the two; an appeal to the intellect through the medium of individual appearances. It must

bring out the brilliance of the "form" breaking through the material; the principle of being, of life, showing forth from the individual and giving art the universal appeal that all true art must have. Nor is art the property of the educated few, but the common heritage of mankind; when it ceases to be this it is not art. A few more such wholesome doses of the strict logic of the School—scientific common sense—not only in the realm of art but in every department of modern life is to be sincerely hoped for, as they are the remedy for modern ills.

Father Donnelly's work is a presentation of the principles of art in popular terms and an application of them to literature in particular. The first part of the volume is devoted to a discussion of art in the appreciation of literature; the second, to the application of its principles in the teaching of literature. He shows that literature is truly an art, and as such should be governed by those same principles; that it has been misunderstood; what should be done to correct this and how the appreciation of literature as an art can be brought about today. Lest the dry bones of logic should repel the ordinary mind they are covered with the healthy flesh of illustration, often nicely colored with genuine humor.

After perusing these two short works one can readily see Arthur Symond's true position and understand how he has attained the high rank he now enjoys as a critic of the fine arts. He has so much of the truth; just a touch of Impressionism, a little too much emphasis on nerves, sensations, external impressions keeps him from perfection. If only he had a slight acquaintance with the Schoolmen; with his feet on the rock of solid facts and with his love of art, his keenness, preciseness of judgment, he could hurl his opinions high and dry out of the contemporary flood of literary production on to the sparsely populated shores of the classics. "*Dramatis Personae*" embraces the fine arts in general, the author having selected certain artists, mainly literary, for his inspection; while such essays as the Russian Ballets, English and French Fiction, and Recollections of Rejane also find a place in this assortment. His method is one of keen, almost merciless analysis, a probing down to the very source of success or failure, of genius or mediocrity; at times this is pleasing to the reader; more often otherwise, not because of the author but because of his subject, for there are

but few who can stand the glaring searchlight of impartial investigation. His rhetoric is of course well known. It is like the backgrounds of the great masterpieces of which he writes so well, whose massiveness and gorgeous coloring do not obscure the picture but rather serve to bring out more perfectly every detail.

"Christ in Art" is a careful tracing of the attempts of men to picture the Christ. The work is not critical but rather historical, showing as can be done with almost any artistic production, how the picture, mosaic or sculpture differed according to the characteristics of the age in which it was created, the artist's personality, moral life, and so on. The author begins from the earliest known portraits of the Catacombs and goes down through the different schools of art to modern times. The task is well done, in a sympathetic strain and with a firm grasp of the subject. Though not pretending to be exhaustive it is sufficiently comprehensive and is enriched with thirty-nine illustrations.

R. W. F.

The Human Side of Fabre. By Percy F. Bicknell. Pp. 340. \$2.50. Century, N. Y. C.

This Earth of Ours. By Jean Henri Fabre. Pp. 339. \$2.50. Century, N. Y. C.

The Life of the Scorpion. By Jean Henri Fabre. Pp. 344. \$2.50. Dodd, Mead, N. Y. C.

Fabre has long been known as the prince of observers and the true story-teller of science, but just as worthy of remembrance and perhaps even of greater interest is his lovable human nature. It is this warm and genial quality that the author emphasizes, and he does so effectively by freely quoting from the writings of Fabre himself. For Fabre left the stamp of his own character on every word he wrote; and his own personality, the breadth of his view, his alertness to discover the beauty hidden in little things are all revealed in his writings as clearly as are the facts of nature he had observed. Mr. Bicknell has culled largely from these works the story of Fabre's life, the tone of his thought and the sweetness and gentleness of his nature; and in this centennial biography offers a complete and vivid picture of the man as he discovered himself; the naturalist, humble and unobtrusive, indefatigable from his tenderest years; the student, chained to poverty yet thirsting with an insatiable passion for knowledge; finally the parent, wisely content with the

simple but profound joys of his home, yet like so many others the world over, never wholly free from the burden of solicitude about the very necessities of life.

In "This Earth of Ours" Fabre himself explains the main facts of physical geography in a manner that cannot fail to grasp and hold the attention of both young and old. The marvels of earth, sea and sky, the mighty laws and order of nature—objects that are of natural and lifelong interest to the human mind because they are the humble mirror in which God reflects to us His power and beauty—are approached in a spirit of profound reverence and described in language that is delightful as well as clear and accurate. One forgets it is geography, for Fabre is the teacher.

To study the marvelous instincts of the living animal was Fabre's passionate delight, and he has breathed his own spirit into the records of his studies. In the volume on the scorpion the keen observer is seen at his best. Here are the results of long months spent in patient and persevering investigation; the life history of a little animal of questionable reputation told with that wealth of detail, that vivacity and grace that make Fabre what he truly is: "The Homer of the Insects." H. K.

Maryknoll Mission Letters: China. Pp. 358. \$3.00. Macmillan, N. Y. C.

Maryknoll is keeping abreast if not ahead of the times in foreign mission activity. To sustain enthusiasm in this cause, well-beloved of Christ, the people must be kept in constant touch with the work and its progress. These Letters, direct from China, are well suited to this purpose. They answer the thousand and one questions we have all asked ourselves about life in heathen lands. Perhaps their greatest charm arises from the fact that they are letters,—frank, informal notes relating to friends at home the joys and sorrows, successes and failures, that fall to the lot of apostles. Thus, zeal born of faith and love is tempered with the salutary though humbling sense of human nothingness engaged in the work of God. Reality asserts itself throughout the book; and it is this assurance of actual contact with conditions as they are that makes these Letters satisfy, even while they enthuse. Besides gaining new friends for the missions they may also serve to bring us all to prize more highly our own gift of faith. A. G.

R. L. Stevenson. By Frank Swinnerton. Pp. 195. \$2.00. George H. Doran Co., N. Y. C.

A somewhat revised edition of the book first published in 1914. As Mr. Swinnerton says, this is not a biography, nor a so-called appreciation, but a critical study of the works of Stevenson, barring the personality of the man himself as much as it is possible; for a writer must be judged by his literary output and not by the consideration of the man as such; the medium for our decision should not be the author but the works produced by him, and he will live or die literarily according to the vitality of these writings. Resting on this principle, Mr. Swinnerton proceeds in a masterly manner to scrutinize coldly the numerous works of Stevenson and comes to many startling discoveries, at least in regard to his own opinions, and productive of much discussion pro and con among the literary lights of the day.

His criticisms are generally unfavorable and at first glance seem to have great weight; but their brilliance soon appears somewhat clouded by a peculiar lack of sympathy with his subject, and our otherwise high praise is chilled by a poignant feeling that he cannot enter into the subtleties of the more exquisite temperament of Stevenson. This is of course fundamentally necessary and consequently destroys in great part the value of his deductions. The book, however, is certainly well worth reading for many reasons, and would still be so if it did nothing else than subdue the hectic applause so lavishly accorded Stevenson's works at the present day. That it will do this is beyond question.

G. H.

From a Friar's Cell. By Vincent McNabb, O. P. Pp. 251. \$2.00. Kenedy, N. Y. C.

An Ex-Prelate's Meditations. Edited by Herman J. Heuser, D. D. Pp. 233. \$1.75. Longmans, Green, N. Y. C.

Father McNabb, in giving to the reading public "From a Friar's Cell," has drawn from the deep-running waters of science, history and theology a precious gem sparkling with the profundity, clearness and cogency of argument that springs into life in the secluded silence and meditation of the friar's cell. Such interesting topics as the genius of St. Dominic, the resurrection of the body, truer ethics, birth control, etc., are accurately treated within its pages; in fact, each of the twenty-six chapters of the book is an eloquent appeal to the discriminating reader of the day who seeks a solid substance back of faultless diction.

Several enlightening and authoritative chapters on the much-mooted question of Protestant union with Rome are contained in this little volume. Father McNabb's thoroughness, kindliness and frankness in treating this ticklish subject should go a long way toward dispelling all misconceptions regarding it.

We should love to meet the lovable author of "An Ex-Prelate's Meditations." What a kindly, far-seeing, fatherly shepherd he must have been. His enviable position with regard to his superiors, his fellow-priests and his little flock; and their consequent affection and duties towards him, is brought home more clearly and effectively in his interesting personal narrative than any book of theory on these relations could do. And all the while we are unconscious of the fact that we are imbibing very practical, necessary principles and ideas on such things as social functions, etiquette, books and reading, diplomacy, lay criticism of the clergy, etc., to mention a few of the many practical lessons found in the twenty-eight chapters of the book. Even the lover of romance will find in the romantic chapters of "Larry and Margaret" the smile and the tear characteristic of that true love which "never did run smooth."

Readers who desire the pure wheat that has been carefully and competently sifted from the chaff will find in these two books a wealth of pleasure and practical knowledge worthy of their perusal.

R. D. G.

The Inquisition. By Hoffman Nickerson. Pp. 258. \$4.00. Houghton Mifflin Co., Boston.

To view the Middle Ages squarely through the eyes of the Middle Ages is impossible now. To fully understand the Inquisition is consequently impossible. Therefore to judge is unjust, and to condemn is childish, emotional, unreasonable, unless the judgment be brought home from a long journey back to the thought-life of our thirteenth century forefathers. This book is a sure, sane guide.

The author is a master of the historical side of the subject. Delineation of the past in terms of the present is the outstanding feature of the work. The book is not a theological discussion but even that does not excuse these errors: cause is mistaken for effect as to the cult of the Blessed Virgin; the successful effort to ward off the monotony constantly besieging narratives of this kind often results in distasteful levity; this is the only

reason assignable for the unpardonable reference made on p. 131 to the character so finely portrayed, we hasten to add, in the sixth chapter; the whole idea of self-mortification is entirely missed; finally, it must be remembered that "the idea" (p. 214) is an everlasting truth, independent of time and place,—its acceptance will of course be conditioned by time and place. To lose sight of this nullifies the argument pursued throughout the book.

F. C.

The Chief Ministers of England. By Hon. Clive Bigham. Pp. 422. \$8.00. E. P. Dutton Co., N. Y. C.

"Twenty-seven great names, forming in themselves an epitome of English history," before the introduction of party government. All of them dependent on the mere whim of the king for their stay in power, their position was hardly an enviable one, for "nine perished by a violent death, three died in disgrace, ten were exiled or driven to flee abroad." Their official life was at once exciting and enervating, yet the list contains such well-known figures as St. Dunstan, St. Thomas a'Becket, Cardinals Morton and Wolsey, Thomas Cromwell, Burghley, Strafford and Clarendon.

To each of the ministers the author devotes a rapid sketch of his life, his rise to power, and his career as chief minister, adding in a few vigorous strokes a crisp, terse summary of his character and work. While some may take exception to a few of Mr. Bigham's characterizations, at least credit is due him for his refreshingly frank and personal opinions. At times he betrays a Protestant bias, but on the whole he has succeeded in maintaining an eminently impartial judgment. The statement (p. 221) anent Cardinal Wolsey that "he left two children by a mistress" cannot pass unchallenged. Whatever else be said of Wolsey, such a charge has never been made by any reputable historian, and unfortunately the author quotes no authority in support of his contention.

An extensive bibliography is added but it is to be regretted that for the period of the Reformation the author makes no reference to standard historians as Cardinal Gasquet and Dr. von Pastor.

The book will readily commend itself to both students and general readers as a mine of information about some of the leading figures in eight centuries of English history, set forth,

in bold outline in a style that is succinct and graphic. Not the least invaluable portions are the author's characterization.

A. T. E.

Growth and Structure of the English Language. By Otto Jespersen, Ph. D., Lit. D. Pp. 264. \$2.00. D. Appleton & Co., N. Y. C.

English Verse and Prose. Edited by A. T. Strong and R. S. Wallace. Pp. 622. \$4.25. Oxford University Press, N. Y. C.

Among the many books of a philological nature, especially on the subject of our own language, there are comparatively few which temper the tedious monotony of scientific treatment with the charm of the writer's personality. Accordingly we place Dr. Jespersen's "Growth and Structure of the English Language" among these choice few, for it is at once entertaining and instructive, being the product of long years of assiduous study and research. Written by a professor in the University of Copenhagen, not native to the English language, this work takes on an added interest.

English is first considered as a whole, its intrinsic worth, external influences, and, when compared with other languages, its masculinity. In the following chapters the author summarizes the beginnings of the English language, and the different elements which contributed largely to its subsequent growth and development. Invasions, principally that of the Danes, played an important role during its formative period; while the French left a deep impress, though not as distinct and lasting, as the Scandinavians. Many loan-words were adopted from Latin and Greek, especially during the days of the Renaissance in Italy and France. Then in a very interesting chapter the author considers "Shakespeare and the Language of Poetry" in a truly scholarly fashion.

To pass from the theoretical to the practical, "English Verse and Prose" will afford the reader a splendid opportunity of applying the principles laid down in Dr. Jespersen's book. The editors of this New Anthology have selected examples of prose and poetry, notable for their concentrated power and beauty. These selections in their original form, range from the year 1250 up to our own day, and are arranged in chronological order. Both these books will not only prove serviceable to the philologist and litterateur, but interesting and instructive to the general student as well.

U. B.

Fundamentals of Pedagogy: A Text-book for Catholic Teachers. By Rev. James Higgins. Pp. 266. \$1.90. Macmillan Co., N. Y. C.

"A book that fills a long-felt need." We were reluctant to drag forth this hackneyed cliché, but really no other phrase could so aptly describe the volume before us. In response to the world cry for educators pedagogical text-books have swamped the market; some of them bad—most of them worse. Treacherous principles and methods, flummery and claptrap with a surface veneer of culture comprise the sole credentials of most of them. It goes without saying that such texts are but ill-adapted to the purposes and needs of our Sisters and Brothers who are preparing for teachers' certificates in their religious houses. Father Higgins, realizing their plight, affords a way out of the difficulty by means of an educational hand-book "saturated with the theory of life proposed by the Great Teacher." His treatment is sound, complete and up-to-the-minute; studies of the body, mind, soul and their mutual relations; the physiological, psychological and moral aspects of Education are concisely set forth. Practical questions, processes, problems and methods, together with exhaustive references and an excellent bibliography are but a few of the many appealing features. We are never at a loss to determine the meaning behind the writer's words; every thought is presented with scholastic clearness; each argument carries its point. This one characteristic would serve to distinguish his work from the contributions of modern educators, whose one aim appears to be the camouflaging of vacuous teachings by florid phrases. Father Higgins' manual deserves space in the library of every religious house; its contents should be allotted a place in the mind of every educator; its principles should be practically enforced in every school. This world of ours has slipped its moorings. Godless philosophy, godless politics, godless education are the prime forces working its destruction. There is one escape—in the proper religious training of the rising generation. Father Higgins has shown the way; may others, many others, follow after. J. L. C.

DIGEST OF RECENT BOOKS

RELIGION, PHILOSOPHY, EDUCATION: St. Peter: His Name and Office, by Thomas W. Allies, made its first appearance some three-quarters of a century ago. On that occasion the "Dublin Review" recommended "in the strongest manner . . . this luminous, powerful and indeed irresistible summary of the proofs of the supremacy of St. Peter." But in our day, when those who read the signs of the times see men turning their faces towards Rome, such a work seems heaven-sent. The profound studies of the author—himself a convert—give his words that authority which will engender conviction in the mind which really seeks for truth. (Kenedy, \$3.00). Believing that devotion to Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament is the surest means of restoring all things in Christ, Msgr. Kirlin, director of the Priests' Eucharistic League, has collected a number of his Eucharistic essays which were originally published in "Emmanuel," and now offers them to the laity in charming book-form under the title **One Hour With Him**. (Macmillan, \$1.50). The realization of the difficulties and trials which directors and officers of the Sodality of the B. V. M. and other societies experience in the execution of their various duties has prompted Rev. Edward F. Garasche, S. J., to publish **Sodality Conferences**, which contains the fruits of his extensive study of these organizations. Each of the twenty-six chapters is replete with authoritative information and valuable exhortation, and furnishes abundant material for numerous meetings. This work should be heartily welcomed by every true sodalist, since in it every possible phase of the Sodality has received careful attention. (Benziger, \$2.75).

The lovers of our Blessed Mother have likewise been busy in other fields. From France comes **L'Oraison et La Messe avec Marie**, especially designed for the devotions of priests. It is a study, by Rev. J. M. Texier, of Mary's dispositions of prayers; of her life of grace and our union with her; and the application of these principles to our appreciation of the Holy Sacrifice. (Tequi, Paris, 7.50 fr.) Rev. L. Garriguet frankly warns us not to seek for novelties in **La Vierge Marie**. His is not the role of trail-blazer in virgin territory, but rather that of guide through oft travelled but poorly mapped regions. Tome after tome has discussed the dignity, the privileges, the virtues, the merits and the cult of Our Lady; but it has remained for Fr. Garriguet to embody these doctrines in such form as to be available for clear instruction and edification. (Tequi, Paris, 10 fr.) Nor have the clients of St. Joseph been idle. Rev. Alexis Lepicier, O. S. M., has brought forth a well knit volume of meditations on the prerogatives of this gentle saint. These studies are more than devotional; they carry with them a guarantee of theological soundness, since in more technical form, they composed a portion of the dogmatic curriculum in the college of Propaganda, Rome. **Go to Joseph** will do much to further the love and cult of the Patron of the Universal Church. (Benziger, \$1.50).

Mystical Initiation, by Dom Louismet, O. S. B., is a boon to the legion of devout souls for whom the Cantic of Canticles has ever been a stumbling-block. No longer need this beautiful song be caviar to the general, for the masterly treatment of Dom Louismet has rendered its sublime teachings intelligible even to "the little ones of the flock of Christ." (Kenedy, \$2.00). The paradox of Seneca that "life's most important task is to learn how to die" is the inspiring motive of Abbe Brugere's **L'Art de Mourir**, a unique anthology gathered from the world's best writings on this subject. The author's choice and arrangement of extracts is most appealing, and the thoughts expressed, however much they may go against the grain of a life-loving generation, cannot but produce salutary effects.

(Lethiellieux, Paris, 7.50 fr.) Mary Chambers has chosen a more pleasing, yet none the less important theme. **Teens and Twenties** is a book for girls and young women dealing with the art of cultivating character, good manners and cheerfulness. Although written from the Catholic standpoint the wholesome lessons conveyed will apply to all girls, irrespective of creed or social standing. (Kenedy, \$1.50). **Our Nuns**, by Daniel A. Lord, S. J., is a vivid and inspiring account of the activities of our American Sisters in their many fields of labor—in the convent, school and hospital. The writer takes us on fifteen different journeys to typical Catholic institutions under the care of our nuns, where we obtain intimate glimpses of these noble servants of God and humanity. (Benziger, \$1.75).

Civilization, according to the author of **The Philosophy of Civilization**, is due to "an augmented nervous organization." The main factors which in the past were the causes of this state are as follows: the compulsory maternity of cold women, private property, wealth, drink, temptation, freedom, diversity and an invisible rule. Although fortuitous in individuals, in the group these factors follow a mathematical law and are governed by the law of numbers. To prove his theory R. H. Towner appeals to history—not true history, but for the most part, that of prejudiced historians. Gibbon is quoted quite extensively; even Luther is cited as an authority on the conditions of the Church in Rome in the sixteenth century. The doctrine of the Church is distorted and falsified: thus, she is said to have taught, in the fourth century, that all conjugal relations are sinful. These two volumes are replete with bad logic, poor philosophy and false history. (Putnam's Sons, 2 vol. \$5.00).

In **Personality and Social Adjustment** Ernest Groves presents a book with settings in the new Psychology. This is a study of the problem of self, the role of instincts in the manifestation of personality and the complete readjustment of the self to the demands of complex society. Essentially behaviouristic it is another step along the line that ultra-modern psychology is pursuing; furnishing an interpretation of the motives of personal conduct to accord with the recent advances of psychoanalytic research. (Longmans, Green, \$1.40). "In the depths of conscience," Pere Lacordaire tells us, "are found the most marvelous mysteries of man." No one has ever equalled the success of St. Thomas in probing these depths, and **La Conscience Morale**, by Rev. H. D. Noble, O. P., describes in simple terms the findings of his mentor. This will be a valuable help not merely to moralists and directors of souls, but to all who desire to become more intimately acquainted with the inner workings of the spiritual life. (Lethiellieux, Paris, 7.00 fr.)

HISTORY, BIOGRAPHY, TRAVEL: When shall we obtain a true, unbiased account of the political affairs of Ireland during the past decade? In **The Revolution in Ireland**, Professor W. A. Phillips has gone to great pains to ennoble the conduct of the British in Erin—a task far too difficult for any mortal to attempt. The book is rankly partisan. Despite the fact that the author is generous to profusion in his use of references, yet we can scarcely rely on them as wholly free from the taint of his personal convictions. The book, considered merely as such, is well arranged, and many hitherto unpublished documents have been brought to the light of day; but as an historical document it is a delicious bit of propaganda. (Longmans, \$4.00). Several worth while studies in ecclesiastical history have been forthcoming during the past few months. A vivid and exact portrayal of the ancient history of Christianity has come from the pen of Pere Hebert, O. P. **Sous le Joug des Césars** treats of the long and decisive period of persecutions during the second and third centuries of our era.

Our learned fellow-friar has made a careful and scientific study of this all important epoch, and has presented his findings in a style which is singularly free from that dryness so characteristic of manuals of this kind. (Tequi, Paris, 7.50 fr.) **The Uniate Eastern Churches** is a posthumous work of Dr. Adrian Fortescue which he had intended to be the finishing touch to a life-long labor of love. The greater part of the volume is concerned with the followers of the Byzantine rite in Italy, who held a special spot in the regard of this gentle scholar. Although it is to be regretted that Dr. Fortescue was unable to complete this work, yet even in its unfinished state it is a worthy companion of his two previous volumes on kindred subjects. (Benziger, \$3.00).

Passing now from Italy to Russia we have a timely little study on **The Catholic Church in Russia Today**, by Miss M. E. Almedingen. This book treats chiefly of the conditions in and about Petrograd since the beginning of the war, together with a short account of the work done among the inhabitants. The writer is personally acquainted with those who have had most to do with the advancement and preservation of the Catholic religion in this unhappy land, and presents intimate character studies of these men and women—some of whom have already been crowned with martyrdom. (Kenedy, \$1.35). And speaking of martyrs—let us not be unmindful of those of our own country. The mention of heroes in the Canadian Northwest is likely to conjure up before our minds a picture of the gallants who compose the Royal Northwest Mounted Patrol. But there are other staunch hearts in those bleak regions, whose story if adequately recounted, would challenge our most stirring romantic novels. Fr. Duchaussois, O. M. I., in **Mid Snow and Ice**, has taken a step in this direction by setting down the thrilling history of the Oblate Missionaries in their Canadian missions. This volume is far from being a mere compilation of cold historical data. The narrative of facts, in itself engrossing, is further enhanced by the deft introduction of numerous and vivid sidelights of human interest. Truth is indeed stranger than fiction—and we may add—immensely more interesting. (Kenedy, \$3.75).

At a time when unhappy marriages seem to be the rule rather than the exception, it is encouraging to know that there has been sufficient demand to justify a reprint of Rev. Hugh Francis Blunt's **Great Wives and Mothers**; for in this we see some indication of a spreading realization and appreciation of the duties, responsibilities and sanctity of the married state. Dr. Blunt gives us brief though intimate glimpses into the lives of saintly women, of ancient, mediaeval and modern times—justly renowned for their domestic virtues and their strivings for higher and better things. A work of this nature can be especially recommended to all who are contemplating marriage or are already married, since it will prove instructive and beneficial in the ordering of their own lives. (Devin-Adair, \$3.00). **Anne-Catherine Emmerich**, by G. Dirheimer, is an appeal to French people to interest themselves in the life and visions of a German nun of the last century who was "so French at heart." In certain quarters doubts have been expressed as to the true character of her visions and stigmatization; some even contending that she was a victim of Megalomania. This is not the stand of Professor Dirheimer and a goodly portion of his work is devoted to valuing and refuting such non-sympathetic criticism. (Tequi, Paris, 5 fr.)

Pierre Curie, by Madame Curie, is an interesting and instructive account of her husband's life and labors, but appears rather too technical for the average reader. Necessarily the biography of the discoverer of radium entails the life story of his co-worker and spouse. The book well expresses the spirit which animated these two great scientists; but the end in view—

Humanity to be served through her handmaiden, Science—makes the story sad reading for Catholics; for Marie Curie has abandoned the Faith of her childhood. (Macmillan, \$2.25). **Father Shealy and Marymount** provides for us a more pleasant topic. Marymount owes a great debt of gratitude to this holy man in return for fifteen years of devoted services in her behalf, a debt but partially cancelled by the publication of this memorial volume. A few pages of reminiscences are followed by extracts chosen from the lectures and conferences of Fr. Shealy, under the editorial direction of Rev. Michael Earls, S. J. We predict a cordial reception for this unusual little book, not only among the friends of Marymount, but also among our American Catholics as a whole. (Harrigan Press, Worcester, Mass.)

Visits to Palestine are not the rare happenings that they were some half century ago; and for this reason Father Barnabas Meistermann's **Guide to the Holy Land** carries an appeal to a goodly number of English speaking tourists who have long felt the need of a work of this kind. Formerly such favored beings had to draw their information from un-Catholic sources, but now we have a really Catholic guide-book available to all. It is not necessary to make the actual journey to appreciate this book. Indeed, it is very likely that it will prove of greater service to the "stay-at-homes," since the writer has presented his facts in a pleasing manner, avoiding the time-table method usually employed by the compilers of vade-mecums. (Kenedy, \$4.00).

FICTION, POETRY: When a seasoned essayist puts his hand to the fiction loom we look forward to a product of unusual beauty. **False Gods** has not belied our expectations. The author has attempted to obscure his identity in the pen-name of "Will Scarlet," but in so doing has been about as successful as the head-burying ostrich. The story portrays the struggles of a youthful idealist caught and nearly crushed in the maw of the modern Moloch, Journalism; yet happily rescued by the force of love. Deft choice of language, unstilted conversation, delightful bits of description (albeit propaganda for the Golden Gate) and a sublime yet unobtrusive moral coloring merit for this work the place of honor in our fiction list. (Benziger, \$2.00). We are having a plenty of novels these days about marriage and the troubles it is heir to—one worse than the other. But **A Winter of Discontent** stands out in bold relief because, unlike its fellows, it runs logically along to a solution that will really hold water. "Today matrimony is no more than an experiment. We rush into it like fools, never pausing to consider what it means until we get there. The examination takes place after the purchase. We know the contract is not binding. Why scruple over our choice?" There we have a good diagnosis of the disease of the age; and Father Barrett effects a cure with all the skill and gentleness that we expect from a great physician. (Kenedy, \$2.00).

Under the title **My Fair Lady** we find a collection of short stories by the author of "Maria Chapdelaine." They will well repay careful reading and in numerous places show the exquisite touch of the master-hand. No doubt this volume will add to the reputation of Louis Hemon, although it hardly approaches the heights of his previous classic. The stories in themselves are psychological, limning with vivid strokes the emotions and virtues of man placed in peculiar circumstances. (Macmillan, \$2.00). In **The Alabaster Box** James Lane Allen sets forth the philosophy of selfishness rampant in the world today. In the attempt to do this he strikes a rather too elevated strain of idealism which soon dies down to a tone of improbability. The tale is cleverly told and teaches a good lesson; yet we do not like to think that our world is so sunk in egotism that it is oblivious

to real kindness. Surely, down deep there still exists a true and abiding affection between men. There are too many writers who bring out all the shadows but little of the sunlight of life. (Harper & Bros., \$1.25).

Ann's an Idiot—so Pamela Wynne tells us—and yet the most charming and lovable innocent that ever journeyed from Liverpool to Bombay. Her habit of "jumping at things" leads her into many droll escapades, much to the discomfiture or amusement of her associates. It is probable that her display of innocence will move our American flappers to stick their tongues in their cheeks; but her winsome and airy spirit will captivate even the most blase of fiction lovers. (Stokes, \$2.00). Although **Little David**, by Robert Stuart Christie, will hardly wrest the laurels from the brows of Dickens and Barry, as its blurb would lead us to fear, yet it is a dainty morsel. Professedly of the Pollyanna type it is on the whole free from the bromidic utterances so characteristic of its species. The nebulous quality of the plot adds to the zest of the story. You will be charmed with the antics of Little David, and amused by the funniments of John Henry, purveyor of happiness. (Seltezer, \$2.00). **The Plastic Age**, by Percy Marks, is a terrible indictment of American college life. We cannot agree that the picture is presented with photographic accuracy. Happily the conditions described do not obtain in all our colleges. With all due allowance for exaggeration, however, there is enough in the book to make us pause and consider. The story the author sets out to tell leads him into byways where following is far from pleasant. Unwittingly, perhaps, but none the less cogently, Mr. Marks points out the need for placing the young man in a school where during the plastic age he will be surrounded by religious influences that will guide and help him in the molding of his character; and if parents, Catholic parents especially, take this lesson from the book, they will not have read it in vain. (Century, \$2.00).

It is pleasing to mount from the barren plains of realism to the uplands of romance, there to revel with Mary Johnston in the atmosphere of by-gone days. **Croatan**—as one might well expect—is based upon the early history of Virginia, with Virginia Dare as the central figure of the story. The writer explains the mysterious disappearance of the lost colony of Roanoke Island by causing the settlers to wander inland, where they established the village of Croatan. War with the Shawnees ensues and Virginia Dare is taken captive. The rest of the book is concerned with the relation of her wanderings and final rescue. This is really a tale which will hold your attention, and needless to say, it is redolent of that intangible something which has won for Mary Johnston her wide popularity. (Little, Brown, \$2.00). **The Astonishing Adventure of Jane Smith** did not prove to be so very astonishing after all. It is, of course, a mystery story and contains all the time-honored ingredients considered essential to the concoction of such a delicacy. There is a fair heroine; male villains abound; plots and counterplots galore—'neverthing! But somehow or other Patricia Wentworth's yarn fails to satisfy; for when one reaches the denouement he is apt to yawn, toss the volume aside and promptly forget all about it—a proceeding which no respectable "thriller" should countenance. (Small, Maynard, \$2.00).

There are many readers who would consider their literary year a failure if Edward J. O'Brien were unable to bring out his annual anthology of the Short Story. Mr. O'Brien is, perhaps, the greatest living critic of this most perplexing form of literature, and his judgments carry great weight in the world of letters. There are, it is true, many dissenting voices; but in matters of this kind no man can hope to please the variegated tastes of tens of thousands. **The Best Short Stories of 1923** is well up to the

standard which the author established in his previous collections. Among the writers cited for distinction are Irving Cobb, Sherwood Anderson, Fannie Hurst, Henry Leon Wilson and others whose names are not as yet so widely known. In addition to the twenty tales selected there are the usual biographies, honor roll, indices, etc.—all of which combine to make this an indispensable aid to students of the Short Story. (Small, Maynard, \$2.00).

Mystic Voices, by Rev. Roger Pater, has much in common with "The Mirror of Shalott" of Msgr. Benson. It is a collection of fourteen brief but extraordinary tales, relating the supernatural experiences of Philip River Pater, Squire and Priest. Despite the difficulties which the telling of such stories entails, the author has performed his task well; and the result is an unusual book, well calculated to attract and hold the interest of every reader. (Kenedy, \$1.75). John Masefield's latest tragedy in verse, **A King's Daughter**, is a dramatization of the misfortunes of Jezebel, Queen of Samaria. If action be considered as primary in the drama, then certainly it does not lack the dramatic element; for herein virtue, intrigue, jealousy and blood abound. (Macmillan, \$1.75).

SOME RECENT PUBLICATIONS

The "Little Way" of Spiritual Childhood, Rev. G. Martin. A simple dissertation on the principal religious virtues, gleaned from the life and writings of the Little Flower. (Kenedy, \$0.75).

My Prayer Book, Fr. Lasance. A new, large type edition for all who would pray with comfort. (Benziger, \$2.00).

The Mirror of Humility, Rev. Thomas Gannon, S. J. Meditations and prayers for each day of the week, translated from the Italian of Fr. John Pinamonti, S. J. (Benziger).

The Office of Holy Week, Leo P. Manzetti. A book for clergy and faithful based on the revised Roman Breviary. The insertion of chant rules in English is a valuable feature. (Murphy Co., \$1.50).

The Town Landing, by Mabel Farnum, evidences the influence of Catholic womanhood on the stronger, but less religious sex. Miss Farnum displays talent for writing, but the present plot is not happily chosen. (Kenedy, \$1.50).

Le Poeme de L'Amour Eternal, C. Quievreux. A sort of doctrinal synthesis in answer to the eternal query: Why Creation? (Lethielleux, Paris, 7 fr.)

Aupres du Puits de Jacob, Ch. Cordonnier. A series of retreats to young women on the subject of Christian life. (Lethielleux, Paris, 6 fr.)

Le Don de Dieu, Abbe Lecomte. This is a well constructed treatise on the life of grace in the soul and the virtues to which it gives rise. (Tequi, Paris, 1.50 fr.)

Futurs Pretres, Abbe Grimaud. What all Christian parents and educators should know concerning the methods and principles of recruiting to the Priesthood. (Tequi, Paris, 5 fr.)

St. Thomas and the Immaculate Conception, Peter Lumbreras, O. P. A concise vindication of the stand of the Angelic Doctor on this question. (U. of Notre Dame, \$0.15).

In God's Country, Neil Boyton, S. J. Another collection of stories from the pen of a cherished friend of youth. (Benziger, \$2.00).

- Blindness of Heart**, Violet Colquhoun Bell. We surmise with regret, that the "blindness" is as much that of the writer as of the characters of her story. In the words of King Lear: "Give me an ounce of civet, good apothecary, to sweeten my imagination." (Harcourt, Brace, \$2.00).
- The American Citizen**, John A. Lapp. A manual of American citizenship dedicated to our American Catholics, old and young. If the ideals outlined in this book be instilled into the rising generation, the future of the Republic is assured. (Macmillan).
- Initiation au Catechisme**, J. Leday. An aid for catechists who believe in planting the seeds of religious truth by the story-telling process. (Tequi, Paris, \$3.50 fr.)
- Comment Israel riviendra-t-il au Messie**, Abbe Marcault. An interesting and systematic consideration of the conversion of the Jewish people. (Tequi, Paris, 3 fr.)
- Une Mere de Pretre, Marguerite Bosco**, Mgr. de la Porte. A monograph addressed to Catholic mothers in the endeavor to awaken in their hearts the desire to cooperate in producing a priest for God. (Tequi, Paris, 1 fr.)
- Une Ame de Lumiere**, M. de Laval. Memoirs, personal recollections and correspondence of Baron Francois d'Yvoire, an outstanding figure of the nineteenth century in France, and the associate of Montalembert and Mgr. Dupanloup. (Tequi, Paris, 7 fr.)
- The Wheat Harvest and The Fire of God** are two pamphlet stories written around the Sacraments of the Holy Eucharist and Confirmation. Mary Agatha Gray. (I. C. T. S.)
- The Red Lily of Buchanan Valley**, by Fr. Will Whalen. "A romance founded on the life of the Irish girl stolen by the Indians from Buchanan Valley, Adams County, Pennsylvania, in 1758. A story too strange and grim not to be true." (White Squaw Pub. Co., Orrtanna, Pa., \$0.50).
- Peut-on etre a la fois Chretien et Theosophe**. Of course the answer is—No; but it is here presented by Mgr. Janssens, O. S. B., in a most cogent fashion. (Tequi, Paris).
- Oeuvres de Pere Fabre**, Abbe Jaud. The first of a series of Fr. Faber's works arranged in the form of short meditations and spiritual readings, manifesting keen discrimination on the part of the compiler. (Tequi, Paris, 7.50 fr.)
- L'Oeuvres de Vocations**, J. Millot. An explanation of the ways and means of obtaining home vocations with reports of activities in this sphere in France since 1913. (Tequi, Paris, 3 fr.)
- Mary Rose at Boarding School**, by Mary Mabel Wirries. As lovable as she can be, wide awake and full-of-fun, Mary Rose will surely win her way into the heart of every book-loving little Miss. (Benziger, \$1.00).
- Soyez Joyeux**, by Vittorino Facchinetti, O. F. M. "Be joyful and you will be virtuous: be virtuous and you will be joyful." Such is the burden of the message contained in this excellent study of the nature and role of happiness in the spiritual order, based upon the life of St. Francis of Assisi, Apostle of Joy. (Lethielleux, Paris. 7.50 fr.).