



FRIARS' BOOKSHELF



The Life of St. Dominic. By Bede Jarrett, O. P. Pp. 180. Benziger, N. Y. C.

"Saint Francis the gentle and kind lover of the poor. Saint Dominic the harsh and cruel founder of the Inquisition." Such are the epitaphs of two intimate friends written on the minds of many of those outside the fold and not a few of the faithful. No one can call into question the tribute paid to the founder of the Friars Minor. But is it true that St. Dominic was the founder of the Inquisition? To men such as Mr. Hoffman Nickerson and Father Jarrett, who have made a special study of the history of the Inquisition, these aspersions cast on the beautiful character of this wonderful saint are absurd because unfounded. His book is historical in tenor but resembles a story more than a scientific biography. The author's style is most interesting and pleasing.

Besides in its popular style this biography excels former ones written of Saint Dominic in that the author touches only lightly on those phases of the saint's life which are familiar to every one and brings into bolder relief those that are not so well known. He introduces many human touches which reveal Dominic's simple personality, joyous, affectionate, pure, enduring, but "overshadowed by a gloomy ghost whose chief memorial is the Inquisition."

Saint Dominic breathed his spirit in the great idea he had conceived—the foundation of the Order of Friars Preachers. This spirit still lives and is to be found in the legislation which he enacted to make it a sound organization. Accordingly, Father Jarrett, in order to delineate better the character of his hero, makes use of the Dominican Constitutions to great advantage in his seventh chapter, "The Order Organized." It is here that we find the democratic spirit of Saint Dominic in full bloom, and to this passage especially do we refer the young aspirant to the ranks of Saint Dominic who seeks a true notion of the spirit of the Order.

A. B. D.

The Prophet of Carmel. By Rev. Chas. B. Garside, M. A. Pp. 287. \$3.00. Carmelite Monastery Press, Wheeling, W. Va.

This masterly study leads us back into the shadows of the Old Dispensation and brings new interest to all who love to trace the hand of God in its direction of men in faith, justice and true love. The author has chosen as his inspiring example Elias, the firebrand of God, most wonderful of the prophets in his mission and works, yet so like men of the world in his trials. He holds up the "prodigious Thesbite" as the embodiment of that intense, absolute faith which can be explained only by the constant presence of God. These prophets of old were not only the manifestation of divine might and favor but were the inspiration of future ages.

The present work brings forward the point that Elias, prophet though he was, furnishes us with an example of the fire and depth of an acting faith. No attempt has been made to narrate the life story of the prophet since such a task would entail the weaving of a seeming story about the meager details given us in the Third Book of Kings. Father Garside has taken the Scripture words as they stand, fathomed their meaning and thus analyzed the character and spirit of the prophet and the importance of his mission. Worthy of note is the practical application of this hidden spirit and activity to the self discipline of souls striving to attain a more perfect way. This is by no means a new work, but since it seems destined to outlive the materials which clothe it, it has forced its weighty message into a new edition.

A. D.

Religious in Church Law. By Hector Papi, S. J. Pp. 355. \$2.75. Kenedy, N. Y. C.

It is gratifying to note that finally all the regulations of the Code regarding Religious have been carefully indexed and commented upon in English between the covers of one book. Up to the present it has been somewhat difficult to lay a finger on the many legislative enactments pertaining to Religious contained in the Code over and above those in the section "De Religiosis." Father Papi's work very adequately meets this long-experienced difficulty. "In this work," writes the Rt. Rev. Msgr. Bernardini, D. D., in his preface to the book, "the author has aimed at providing a practical guide to all, whether religious or non-religious, who may desire to have within easy reach a handy and clear treatise where they will find sound canonical doctrine."

A glance at but a few of the subjects treated, chosen at random, may suffice to show the value of the work for those who find an accurate and ready knowledge of canonical legislation regarding religious necessary. Such subjects as "Exemption," "Chaplains," "Religious Pastors and Rectors," "Churches," "Collecting," "Nuns," "Visitation," "Examinations," etc., are concisely and adequately treated. Each subject is sub-divided into titles or paragraphs. The articles relating to Nuns, for example, is sub-divided into four sections, entitled respectively: "Definition," "Communities with Solemn Vows by Constitution," "Nuns with Simple Vows by Pontifical Enactment," and "Dependence on Regulars or Ordinary of the Place."

A note-worthy feature of the book is its complete and handy table of contents and index of Canons, whereby one is enabled to locate quickly page and paragraph on any desired subject. In fact, the entire work, by its alphabetical arrangement of subjects, is as accessible as a dictionary.

A comprehensive, scholarly and handy work such as Father Papi's should readily recommend itself to all who must have at hand an accurate knowledge of legislation regarding religious.

R. D. G.

Marie Antoinette. By Hilaire Belloc. Pp. 559. \$5.00. G. P. Putnam's Sons, N. Y. C.

The versatile Mr. Belloc turns out essays, poetry and fiction with equal ability, but he is preeminently the historian. One of his favorite studies has been the French Revolution. It is doubtful whether any other English writer has an equal grasp of this important period. He is well acquainted with the localities where the principal episodes of the Revolution were enacted; his travels in France have given him a sympathetic understanding of the genius of its people; and he has thoroughly mastered the mass of historical material pertaining to the period.

With such qualifications, Mr. Belloc is admirably equipped to write the life of the unfortunate French queen who fell a victim to the fury of the Revolution. Like a true historian, he is not content with merely setting down in order the various incidents which constitute the life history of Marie Antoinette. He penetrates beneath the surface and with keen analysis, shows how certain characteristics of the Queen, and the various indiscre-

tions which resulted from them, hastened if they did not provoke the political upheaval which rocked all Europe.

For the scandals which posterity has attributed to Marie Antoinette, Mr. Belloc can find no foundations in fact. Indiscreet she was, impulsive and somewhat frivolous, but withal she was a good wife and mother, and a devout Catholic in the midst of a court where such qualities were too often conspicuous by their absence.

The whole story as Mr. Belloc tells it, makes fascinating reading. It is replete with action, and fire, and life. It is not a cold, dry recital of past events, but a vivid dramatization of the pageantry and turmoil of the most stirring period of French history.

Not the least remarkable feature of the book is, that though almost a score of years has elapsed since it first appeared in print, the demand for it is still great enough to require the issue of a new edition.

A. J. McG.

The Early History of the Christian Church. By Msgr. Louis Duchesne, Litt. D. Translated from the French by Claude Jenkins, Professor of Ecclesiastical History, London University. Pp. 556. \$6.00. Longmans, Green & Co., N. Y. C.

Monsignor Duchesne's works need no introduction to Catholic readers. The present volume is the third and last of a series covering the first centuries of the Church's existence. It treats in detail of the Church of the fifth century, harassed from without by the barbarians forcing a way into the crumbling Roman Empire, and from within by the virulence of heretics, Arian, Nestorian, Pelagian, Monophysite and others. The fifth century produced a greater galaxy of Church Fathers and Doctors than any other, including St. Jerome, St. Leo I, St. Augustine, St. Cyril of Alexandria, St. John Chrysostom, Theodoret, and others. All these and much more, with the tremendous struggles of the times on doctrinal matters form the subject-matter of the volume at hand. Msgr. Duchesne has with painstaking care thoroughly sifted the great mass of data available, and produced a comprehensive study of the period. Except for a few offences against smoothness of expression, the translator has performed his task in a most praiseworthy manner. He has added a very complete index which greatly enhances the value of the book for reference and study.

A. T. E.

DIGEST OF RECENT BOOKS

RELIGION, PHILOSOPHY: Catholics are "spiritualists" but not "spiritists." Rev. Charles M. de Heredia, S. J., ably presents the distinction, and in language which will not bore the layman. Spirits are very real beings. We live in constant contact with them under the providence, of course, of the Great Spirit, God. By Baptism we become members of a spiritual society, the Communion of Saints. **True Spiritualism** was written to clear up hazy notions on this very consoling dogma, and to place within easy reach of all the teaching of the Church on that interesting subject of communication with the unseen world. (Kenedy, \$2.00).

Blessed Battista Varani's **True Devotion to the Passion**, just edited by Enid Dennis, is a notable contribution to our literature on the spiritual and mystical life. Blessed Battista, a devout religious of the Order of St. Clare, was favored by Our Lord with a series of revelations concerning the anguish of mind and body which He suffered during the time of His Passion. Under divine guidance these lights were written down for the edification of the faithful and for five centuries have afforded untold consolation to lovers of the Sacred Heart. These writings will be of interest to our Dominican brethren since they are strikingly in tune with the revelations vouchsafed to our great mystic, Blessed Henry Suso. (Kenedy, \$1.00).

In **The Catechist and the Catechumen** Rev. Joseph Weigand presents a new manual of Religion intended to assist teachers of the primary grades in imparting the truths of Faith in an interesting fashion. He has arranged his system according to the plan of the Baltimore Catechism, explaining points of dogma in intelligible language and bringing forth the doctrine by means of vivid illustrations. Fr. Weigand's work is the fruit of many years of experience in teaching from which he has derived a deep knowledge of the approaches to the child mind. (Benziger, \$1.50). The same author has brought out **A Simple Course of Religion**, a miniature catechism for the instruction of first communicants. (Benziger, \$4.00 per 100).

Another work which will be of assistance to catechists both lay and religious is **Histoires de Catechisme**, by Rev. E. Duplessy, Canon of Notre Dame de Paris. Teachers are well aware of the importance of story telling in all branches of instruction, but unfortunately are often at a loss to provide suitable material. To supply this want Canon Duplessy has gathered together a huge fund of anecdotes illustrating the principle truths of the Catholic Religion. He has divided his matter into three sections, "Truths to be Believed," "Duties to Practice," and "The Means of Sanctification," devoting an entire volume to each group. (Tequi, Paris. Each vol. 6 fr.).

The vast array of books dealing with the Blessed Sacrament provides striking testimony of the love of Catholics for this sublime devotion. The dogma itself, the effects of the Eucharist in the souls of those who receive it, the place of this Sacrament in the economy of the Church,—all these points have been abundantly treated. Now we have something novel, a purely historical study of devotion to the Blessed Sacrament. In **Le Culte du Saint Sacrament**, Rev. Ch. Cordonnier has traced the origin of this devotion, its development and its chief manifestations from the earliest ages down to our own era. A masterly work, charming because of its novelty, valuable by reason of its historical accuracy, edifying and attractive since it concerns a subject dear to the hearts of all genuine Christians. (Lethielleux, Paris. 7 fr.).

Lee Visions de saint Jean, by Msgr. Joseph Blanc, will be welcome to students of Exegesis and to all desirous of penetrating more deeply into the Mystery of Christ. In the Apocalypse the Beloved Disciple bequeathed to his spiritual children a portrait of the triumphant reign of Jesus in Heaven, but the sublime content of his words must always escape the workings of ordinary minds. Only to the favored few has been granted the privilege of delving into this inexhaustible mine. From the writings of these latter, from the legacies of the Fathers and Saints, the author has composed an exposition of the mysteries of the Apocalypse in a clear and simple manner, adapting its marvels to the understanding of humble souls. (Tequi, Paris. 10 fr.).

Le Saint Pretre, by Msgr. Lelong, offers aid to priests in their meditations on the virtues required by their state. In a series of twenty conferences the writer examines the role of the virtues and evangelical counsels in molding the sacerdotal character. These considerations, together with copious citations from Sacred Scripture and from the writings of theologians and spiritual directors furnish abundant food for salutary reflection. (Tequi, Paris. 7.50 fr.). Aspirants to Holy Orders will find excellent material for their preparatory retreats in a small volume of letters selected from the posthumous works of Abbe Henri Perreyve and recently published under the title, **Meditations sur les Saints Ordres**. (Tequi, Paris. 1.50 fr.).

In compliance with the urgent request of readers of "Revue Thomiste," R. P. Edouard Hugon, O. P., has published in book form five studies touching upon theological subjects of current interest. **Reponses Theologiques a Quelques Questions d'Actualite** is in certain respects a sort of commentary on the outstanding issues of the immortal encyclical of Pope Pius X on Modernism. The subjects chosen for brief survey are: "The Notion of Hierarchy in the Church of Jesus Christ," "An Analysis of the Act of Faith," "Faith and Revelation," "Dogmatic Concepts" and "The State of the Separated Souls." Theologians have long been acquainted with these several essays and will welcome their appearance in this new dress. (Tequi, Paris. 5 fr.).

Points of Church Law, Mysticism and Morality, by Rev. Thomas Slater, S. J., is addressed to Catholic laymen who desire to have at hand information bearing upon ecclesiastical legislation and upon such subjects of spirituality as concern their daily life. Explanations with regard to the latest regulations on fasting and abstinence, the reckoning of time in fasting before Holy Communion, practical studies of each of the sacraments, talks on Confession, Marriage, Secret Societies, Sex Problems and many other topics of vital interest will attract the attention of our layfolk and make them more spiritual and better informed Catholics. (Kenedy, \$1.75).

Dr. James J. Walsh's **Success in a New Era** does not present a patent formula of "success in six lessons," but it does offer a keen analysis of human character and of the traits which when properly exercised lead to success, when allowed to grow flabby mark a man for failure. Dr. Walsh, from long medical experience, understands the workings of mind and body and in his book shows just exactly what is their relation to the success a man may attain in the world today. Work and recreation, good habits and bad, the power of will, the parts that concentration and memory can play: of these and kindred topics Dr. Walsh writes helpfully and genially. (Appleton, \$1.25).

BIOGRAPHY, HISTORY: A Sister of Notre Dame tells anew the romantic story of **Saint Gregory the Great**, that great figure "whom God gave to His Church in her need, at the close of the sixth century." Far

different from the usual run of lives of the saints is this biography. The author gains our interest by modernizing her book, treating Gregory as a Saint but also considering him as a man of action, a man who impressed his time as well as our own, and one in whose writings we "learn things worth knowing of the men with whom he dealt." (Kenedy, \$1.50).

The biography of **Felix Westerwoudt, Missioner in Borneo** forms the subject matter of the latest Maryknoll book. An inspiring account of a gay, lovable lad who later became a hard-working, self-sacrificing missionary among a primitive people in the forests of Borneo. The publication of his story should be productive of much good, for the Dutch Missioner, though dead, "will still preach by his example, and will prove to the world that even in our own days apostolic men are found to whom the folly of the Cross is sublimest wisdom." (Field Afar Press, Maryknoll. \$0.85).

La Querelle Janseniste, by Abbe Leon Bournet, Professor of Ecclesiastical History at the Seminary of Versailles, presents a complete survey of that movement which rocked the foundations of religious life in France during the seventeenth century. Hitherto students were obliged to consult biased works in their attempt to come to a knowledge of this important period, or had to be satisfied with the spare details set forth in general histories. Hence the importance of this recent study which treats thoroughly of Jansenism, its causes, the controversies which it stirred up, the personages whom it attracted and its dire consequences. (Tequi, Paris. 8 fr.).

Journal of First Voyage to America, by Christopher Columbus, is an abstract by Las Casas from the original log-book of Columbus. Its historical value is at once apparent, but it requires a little reading between the lines, a bit of knowledge of the circumstances and some play of the imagination to comprehend the wonderfully human side of this story and the wealth of its possibilities for every form of literature. The text is not marred or hidden beneath a mass of notes; only such geographical indications as may be of use to the student are appended, together with some correspondence and quotations from contemporary sources to show the popular belief of that time. This is a great story simply presented and, —as its editors were well aware—a story whose merits are its own recommendation. (Albert & Charles Boni, \$3.50).

FICTION, POETRY: To Rev. Daniel J. Connor we are indebted for a new translation of **The Betrothed (I Promessi Sposi)**, a Milanese story of the seventeenth century by Alessandro Manzoni. Great care has been taken to render the quaint Italian of that period into gripping Anglo-Saxon of the present day. Avoiding too slavish an adherence to idioms and mannerisms of style, but never losing the spirit of the work, Dr. Connor has given us a pleasing yet faithful version, which not only does justice to the original but even adds to its merit. (Macmillan, \$3.00).

In **The Black Hood** Thomas Dixon tells the moving story of the dissolution of the original Ku Klux Klan. He directs attention to the sinister and dangerous influence of the organization when placed under the guidance of unscrupulous leaders, warning the members of the new Klan "that history will repeat itself." A splendid treatment of the most vexing problem of the age; a bit crude in spots, often highly melodramatic, but just the kind of story that all of us secretly enjoy. (Appleton, \$2.00).

The distinctive feature of **The Saint's Theatre**, by Horace Fish, is its novel and exalted theme. The writer has endeavored to paint the picture of a saint and visionary who, through the wiles of a schemer, is drawn down from the heights of true charity to the level of mere human love. We cannot but admire the noble motive behind this attempt but it does

seem that Mr. Fish has essayed a task beyond his capabilities. He has missed the whole point in the Catholic doctrine of spirituality and saintliness. Judged according to Catholic standards of proportion "The Saint's Theatre," despite its beautiful setting and its perfection of expression, is a grotesque absurdity. (Huebsch-Kennerly, \$2.50). From the pen of the same author comes a short story, **The Wrists on the Door**, a bit of literature worthy of immortality. Although far removed from the ranks of propaganda it is a forceful and convincing indictment of birth-control and should be read by every married couple. The genius of Mr. Fish is indisputable; he has sounded a new note in the world of letters, but he must be content for a while with reaching lesser spheres and stop hitting at the moon. (Huebsch-Kennerly, \$0.50).

If one be not discouraged by the title story of **When the Moon Became a Chinaman and Other Stories** he will come upon a tale or two worth reading. Crudeties in style, characters made to order and set in motion by a too audible machinery betray the literary novice; but the apparent zeal and sincerity of the author, Milton McGovern, and his reverent efforts to portray the beautiful and religious side of life, win our sympathy and make harsh criticism impossible. (Kenedy, \$1.75).

Eleanor H. Porter's **Hustler Joe** is to be classed with that small minority of present day fiction which can be placed unhesitatingly upon the family library table. The book contains four novelettes of a lofty moral tone, "The Atonement of Hustler Joe," "Tangled," "A Vacation Exchange" and "The Twins' Journey," all flavored with generous amounts of the famous "Pollyanna" philosophy. While not markedly original in content the book at least possesses the merit of being interesting and, above all, inoffensive. (Doran, \$2.00).

In **The Harp of Dawn and Other Poems**, by Sister Imelda, O. S. D., will be found some of the most refreshing and inspiring poems that have appeared in recent times from religious poets. The simple, fervent faith and piety of another Blessed Imelda breathe with charming grace and finished simplicity throughout this neatly published volume of some sixty pages. With faultless expression and vivid imagery Sister Imelda has happily blended a holy seasoning which only those wedded to a vital, romantic Faith can accurately express. "The Harp of Dawn" will bring many a song of cheer and inspiration to lovers of poetry. (Published at St. Catherine's Academy, Springfield, Ky., \$1.25).

BOOKS RECEIVED

- The New Missal for Every Day.** A complete Missal in English with Introduction, Notes and a Book of Prayer. By Rev. F. X. Lasance. (Benziger, \$2.75).
- Summary of Religious Life for Congregations of Sisters.** By Rev. D. I. Lanslots, O. S. B. Pp. 83. (Pustet, \$0.35).
- The Story of St. Jeanne d'Arc.** By Ochiltree Ferguson. Pp. 128. (Kenedy, \$0.80).
- The Angel of the Eucharist.** Marie Eustelle Harpain (1814-42). By Sr. Mary Bernard. Pp. 110. (Kenedy, \$0.80).
- Notre Parente Avec Les Personnes Divines.** By Rev. P. A. Dorsaz, C. SS. R. Pp. 275. (Tequi, Paris. 7 fr.).
- Une Possedee Contemporaine, Helene Poirier de Coullons.** By Rev. Canon Champault. Pp. 537. (Tequi, Paris. 10 fr.).
- Sermons Inedits. Une Station a La Sorbonne.** By Abbe Perreyve. 6th edition. Pp. 374. (Tequi, Paris. 6 fr.).
- Sur Les Pas De S. Jean De La Croix. Dans Le Desert Et Dans La Nuit.** By Msgr. Landrieux. Pp. 173. (Lethielleux, Paris. 5 fr.).
- Oeuvres Du P. Faber.** By Abbe L. Jaud. Vol. II. "Le Createur et la Creature."—"Le Pied de la Croix."—"Conferences Spirituelles." Vol. III. "Le Precieux Sang."—"Bethleem ou le Mystere de la Sainte Enfance." (Tequi, Paris. Each vol. 7.50 fr.).
- Vertus Et Doctrine Spirituelle De S. Vincent De Paul.** By Abbe Maynard. 11th edition. Pp. 432. (Tequi, Paris. 7 fr.).
- Le Livre De L'Amour.** By Claude de Mesnil. Pp. 305. (Tequi, Paris. 6 fr.).
- Les Faits De Lourdes.** Trente guerisons enregistrees au bureau medical (1919-1922). By Dr. A. Marchand. Pp. 293. (Tequi, Paris. 7 fr.).
- A Vingt Ans.** Mariage et Bonheur. By Mme. E. D'Aguilhon. 4th edition. Pp. 387. (Tequi, Paris. 6 fr.).
- L'Infirmerie De Saint Lazare.**—Plaies morales de detresses sociales. By Comtesse de Lagreze-Champol. Pp. 135. (Tequi, Paris. 3 fr.).
- Toute Grace Par Marie.** Trente-deux lectures pour le mois de Marie. By Ch. Millot. Pp. 320. (Tequi, Paris. 6 fr.).
- Le Salut Assure Par La Devotion a Marie.** Temoignages et Exemples. 5th edition. Pp. 185. (Tequi, Paris. 2 fr.).
- Primer—The Marquette Readers.** By Sisters of Mercy, St. Xavier College, Chicago, Ill. Pp. 105. (Macmillan).
- Lenten Sermons: The Passion of Christ and the Seven Vices.** By Rev. Cyril Wahle, S. T. L., O. P. Pp. 58. (The Rosary Press).