

Book Reviews

in Italy, but also largely prevented such wholesale blood-shedding, civil war, and desolation as was experienced in France and the countries affected by the Thirty Years War, while they certainly effectually preserved Catholic faith, order, thought, and outlook. Baron von Pastor's subject-matter is not, however, all of this sombre type; the personal sanctity and angelic individual life of Pius, his liturgical labours, his care for divine worship, his zealous enforcement of the wise decrees of Trent—all these are touched upon, and more of the same sort may be looked for in the succeeding issue. That volume will also no doubt tell the story of the Pope's contact with the English Catholics, and his much-discussed action towards Queen Elizabeth, and so will be impatiently awaited.

R. B.

THE INNER LIFE OF THE SISTERS OF NOTRE DAME. (Burns, Oates and Washbourne, Ltd. ; 2/6.)

The opening words of this little book tell us that it 'is intended for the use of those who aspire to become perfect Sisters of Notre Dame according to the pattern shown to them by their Foundress, Blessed Julie Billiart,' but the author has done well in making it accessible to others. It will be useful not only to members and friends of the Congregation of Notre Dame, but to all who aim at reaching the end for which they were created, namely union with God. The ideal set forth is the highest, the means to attain it the simplest and most practical. A few words quoted from two eminent Sisters of Notre Dame may be cited as random examples of its expression :

'Never suffer in yourselves the least voluntary imperfection, the least infidelity to grace.'

'The great thing in religious life is to show great consideration for others in word and act, and not to expect consideration in return.'

The spirit of the Congregation is briefly illustrated from the lives and teaching of some of its most notable members, which serve to show the manifest and sometimes miraculous working of God in its origin and growth.

The book is well and simply written; but 'pictured out' is surely an 'ism' of some sort which we have not met before.

M. B.