

Book Reviews

ETUDES CARMELITAINES, MYSTIQUES ET MISSIONAIRES. Avril, 1932. Pp. 296. (Paris; Desclée de Brouwer. Single copies, 15 frs. Foreign annual subscription, 35 frs.)

The aim of this important review is to investigate and extend the practice of mysticism according to the school of St. Teresa of Avila and St. John of the Cross. It makes use of recent psychological discoveries and draws analogies from the philosophies of Aesthetic. It compares Catholic with Hindu and Moslem mysticism and examines the question, which lies at the heart of all scientific missionary work, of holiness outside the Church. The list of contributors is impressive and includes Dr. Rudolf Allers, the Abbé Hoornaert, Père Garrigou-Lagrange, M. Maritain, M. Gilson, Dom Huyben, Prof. Jean Lhermitte, Padre Gemelli, M. de la Vallé-Poussin, Père Maréchal, Dr. André le Grand, the Abbé Bremond, and M. Claudel.

In the present number, among other articles, there is one by M. Maritain on the equality of love between God and the soul according to St. John of the Cross, which is enlightening for St. Thomas's metaphysic of St. Peter's 'partakers of the divine nature,' and our friendship with God and all that it implies. Prof. Lhermitte's study of dreams and mystical ecstasy from the point of view of pathological psychology is completed by a philosophical and theological study by the Abbé Maquart. But perhaps the most interesting of all is the long article by Prof. Asin Palacios, of the University of Madrid, on Ibn 'Abbâd of Ronda, a Moorish forerunner of St. John of the Cross.

No one who is interested in the scientific study of mysticism should neglect this valuable review, which appears twice a year, in April and October, and is edited by the Carmelite Fathers of the Province of Paris.

T.G.

THE FOUNTAIN. By Charles Morgan. (London: Macmillan, 1932. Pp. 434; 7/6.)

The chorus of praise which first met this book's appearance at the beginning of the year has died down with the more grudging appreciations of a month or so after. It is now possible to say with sober judgment that it is a great and permanent addition to English letters. It is Platonic in the growth of Ideas, Aristotelean in the living embodiment of them; a treatise on the inner life of the spirit written with distinction of style, a captivating novel with the loveliest descriptions of sense. There is an advance to God, the wise spirituality of a

Blackfriars

practical detachment from creatures without theoretical violence to their intrinsic worth—the crude antithesis between the infinite and finite of the second-rate spiritual book. And although the stress is more on personal invulnerability than on the gallant service of God, I hope it will not embarrass Mr. Morgan to be told that his last novel is substantially a piece of Thomism.

N.W.T.G.

LOST LECTURES. By Maurice Baring. (London: Peter Davies; 10/6.)

In this collection of essays, to which he gives the sub-title, *The Fruits of Experience*, Mr. Baring is not unconcerned with much that is modern in art and literature, but for the most part he treats of a period which the modern generation has only just learnt to regard with equanimity—the last twenty years or so of the reign of Queen Victoria. Mr. Baring writes of his own experiences; of men and women and books and places that have influenced his life. A wide and tolerant culture has enabled him to keep in touch with a vastly changed world. Indeed some will inevitably quarrel with the tolerance that he extends to modern art and literature, but it is this which has enabled him to see the world of thirty years ago in perspective.

There are no politics in this book. There is an essay on Diplomacy, but the strained relations that existed from time to time between France and England in the nineties only enter in so far as they made conversation difficult in Parisian society. We are concerned with the amenities of life—looks, and plays, and music, and good talk. After describing the somewhat chill experience of life at an 'advanced' prep. school, two 'advanced' prep. schools in fact, Mr. Baring brings home to us the comforting truth that it is possible to get all that is best out of the spacious life of Eton and the Universities, and the off moments from a crammer's in London, without having got one's colours at either cricket or football, or gaining any sort of a Blue, or winning the Craven, or taking a first in Mods., or being a potential Viceroy of India. Though in a subsequent essay on *Stimulants* we learn something of the calibre of a man who could correspond adequately to the stimulus provided by Mrs. Warre-Cornish, the wife of the Vice-Provost of Eton, and Vernon Lee.

There are countless things in these essays which give matter for discussion, and countless pleasant little surprises, like the sudden introduction to Mr. Hilary Belloc. We had always known him as Hilaire before. We hardly recognised him.