

BLACKFRIARS

Pugin is eighty years dead. The Gothic Revival did not last. Rood screens have not survived. But it is not an exaggeration to say that the *Motu Proprio* of Pius X on Sacred Music might have been written by Pugin.

Overworked as he undoubtedly was he suffered a mental breakdown early in 1852 and died in the following September. In death he was honoured with 'the real thing.' The funeral services were carried out with the greatest perfection which the Bishop and his clergy had been able to achieve.

It is pleasant to learn that on a false rumour going out shortly before his death that Pugin was in financial difficulties Lord John Russell, in the middle of his no-Popery campaign, sent a donation of £10. Startling, but how highly creditable to both men!

There is a trenchant chapter on Ruskin, who is described as 'that curious and unprecedented phenomenon, a Nonconformist aesthete.' Ruskin had been accused of borrowing from Pugin. He vehemently denied the charge and attacked Pugin, as a Catholic and an architect, with a venom that suggests a guilty conscience or at least an inferiority complex. Pugin merely shrugged his shoulders and said: 'Let the fellow build something himself.' Ruskin's subsequent policy is naïve. In all the thirty-five volumes of his works Pugin's name is mentioned only three times, one of which is a slighting footnote. How dare anyone say he borrowed from Pugin? However, if Pugin's picture has been badly hung, Ruskin's, one might say, is in danger of being turned to the wall.

The book is in keeping with its subject, excellently written, and finely produced by the publishers.

C.N.L.

HOMMES ET FAITS VUS PAR LE MARECHAL FOCH. By J. Briel. (Chez l'Auteur, Collège St.-Francis-Xavier, Vannes; pp. 61; 6 fr.)

Two authentic conversations between Foch and one of the tutors of his son, which illustrate the character of the great soldier, his clarity and decision, his little sympathy with the English way of looking at things. There is consolation in the hinted attribution to us of a deep-laid and

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consistent foreign policy: pleasure at the remark that Mr. Lloyd George is a squirrel ('Oh! il est très intelligent, mais quelle incohérence d'idées!'): suggestion in the idea of the Rhine regarded as the frontier, not of France, but of Germany: surprise at the lack of enthusiasm for Poland ('Enfin, puisqu'elle existe, il faut la soutenir.'): hesitation over the tribute to us for the last summer offensives, 'A la fin, les Anglais marchaient avec la foi du charbonnier.'

N.W.

HANDBOOK TO THE UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD. (Oxford, at the Clarendon Press, Humphrey Milford, 1932; pp. x, 465; 24 plates, 4 maps and plans; 5/-.)

The price is modest for this well-produced volume in dark-blue. The first part gives a descriptive account of the University, and the second a guide to its various rules and regulations. It is a book to delight all lovers of Oxford, and of great convenience to all who propose to become members of the University. There is a slip in the historical chapter. William Allen of Oriel is made to found a Jesuit College at Douai. And what would William Bishop of Gloucester Hall, Bishop of Chalcedon, have thought of the subsequent remark, that Oxford men of the time incurred martyrdom 'for Jesuit ideals'?

N.W.T.G.

AFRICAN ANGELUS: EPISODES AND IMPRESSIONS. By C. C. Martindale, S.J. (Sheed & Ward; 7/6 net.)

It was surely, for his readers, a fortunate motor-accident in New Zealand that resulted in Fr. Martindale's being sent again to seek the sun—this time in South Africa. He left London on a cold December day and on the way to Tilbury nearly had another motor-accident; and 'anyway,' he says, 'I didn't want to go.' He was told to stop work. But he didn't. This big book contains the episodes and impressions of his *holiday*.

His objective was the Jesuit missions in Rhodesia, but his tour took in the chief cities and towns of the Union of South Africa. He determined to learn all he could about Catholic missions in Africa, so as to be able to tell us all about them on his return. He landed at Cape Town with-