

THE DOMINICAN PRIORY AT ILCHESTER. By J. Stevens Cox. (Ilchester Historical Monographs, Number 2. Published by the Author, Ivel House, Ilchester; 2s.)

This delightful little monograph gives a short history of the Ilchester Dominican Priory, a small house containing a community of probably not more than twenty friars in its most flourishing days. The author has followed Fr Palmer in his description of the ancient buildings and his account of their after fate. Neither he nor Fr Palmer can find much trace of the history of the community, but Mr Cox has been able to provide the names of fourteen friars who dwelt there before 1510. Both he and Fr Palmer give the names of the seven friars who in 1538 agreed to surrender the house to the dread Henry VIII. In addition to the names given by the author one or two more may be added: William of Ilchester, ordained priest at Winchester on December 18th, 1322 (Register of Winchester, ed. Baigent, p. 551), Thomas of Ilchester, who witnessed the will of Bishop Ringstead, O.P., of Bangor, on December 3rd, 1365 (Willis, Bangor, p. 217), and Robert Stone of Ilchester, ordained priest at Barnwell on December 23rd, 1413 (Register of Bubwith, Bishop of Bath and Wells, p. 508).

In a valuable appendix of many interesting items we have an account of an excellent manuscript copy of the St Jerome's Psalter and Trivet's Commentary thereon, which once belonged to this priory, having been left to it by William of Ilchester, O.P., professor of theology, sometime in the fourteenth century. W.G.



EXTRACTS

NOVICE MISTRESSES (and perhaps Novice Masters too) will welcome the latest volume of Editions du Cerf's courageous series in which the principles of the religious life are applied to modern conditions. *Pour Les Maitresses des Novices* (Cerf: Blackfriars; 6s. 6d.) is written by men and women who have had wide experience of 'vocations' and their testing. In the first essay Père Chevignard, O.P., puts the difficult question: How is the true wish for religious life distinguished from the very frequent 'pseudo-vocations' of those, for instance, who imagine themselves playing the part of a nun? Dr Nodet approaches this very real problem from the psychological point of view, tracing the present 'vocation' back to the family background and upbringing. Sister Marie de la Rédemption considers the young woman of 1948 and her attitude to prayer and penance; and so the papers treat of the different aspects of spiritual

formation of the candidate once she has entered the novitiate and follow the development up to the moment of profession. The papers were originally delivered as lectures to a conference of Dominican Novice Mistresses from the various French congregations. But they will be found to contain the general principles for the direction of novitiates. There is however no very thorough treatment of the Canon Law which it is so important for the novice mistress to know. Père Omez, who treats of this necessary subject, does refer to other works such as Fanfani's and Vermeersh's accepted treatises on Canon Law for religious, so that the book will help to fill up gaps rather than prove a substitute for such essential reading.

LES AUXILIAIRES DU CLERGE: Under this title a society was recently founded in France with the warm approval of the Bishop of Amiens. It aims at uniting those who wish to dedicate their lives to the assistance of the French clergy. After a year's instruction and 'novitiate' they take the three vows for one year. They take posts in presbyteries where the priests are in charge of several parishes, or in a 'communauté sacerdotale'. They also teach in schools and do anything that is in their power to help the parish priest in his parochial work. Young men who are looking for a spiritual life and a life of self-sacrifice are here given a combination of religious life and activity which seems to respond to their needs as well as the needs of Catholicism in France. [Enquiries may be made from M. L'Abbé Paul Dentin, Curé-Doyen de Picquigny (Somme), France.] There have also been schemes and plans for a similar quasi-religious body in this country but for women, dedicated by vow and specially trained, to help in the acute problem of priests' housekeepers. Such dedicated work is surely a very urgent need today wherever the priests are few in number.

THE ANGELS provide the direct answer to the quite evidently diabolical nature of the modern crisis. The devils must be overcome by the angels; and so a campaign has been started to enlist all the nine choirs of angels in the struggle. The name of those who associate themselves with this campaign is 'Philangeli', a name derived from the Areopagite; and we need not be put off by the thought of one more society to pester our prayer time. If we really have any conception of the nature of the evil at work today this will be an answer, and in any case Priests are not asked for any vocal prayers but only for a memento at Mass, while religious are asked to say some of the prayers they already say for this intention and the laity have only to offer *one* extra prayer. For further information the reader is referred to the article by O. M. Twigg in the

February *Stella Maris*. They may also read with profit a recent book, *Le Monde des Esprits*, by Ch. D. Boulogne (Editions du Rocher, Monaco), which deals with the nature and life of the angels. The author bases himself on the teaching of St Thomas, and it will be remembered that the treatise on the angels holds an important place in the *Summa*.

THE PRESENCE OF GOD (Irish Rosary; 6d.) is the title of a pamphlet by Fr Anselm Moynihan, O.P., in which he deals with the most fundamental of spiritual doctrines. The author writes clearly and persuasively for the ordinary reader who need fear no 'high mysticism' and yet the book concludes naturally with the prayer of Sister Elizabeth of the Trinity and does not lack its quotations from St John of the Cross and St Teresa. In practice Fr Moynihan reduces the ways of putting oneself in the presence of God to two, either considering God as enthroned before one, or as dwelling in the depths of one's heart. And the author counsels tranquillity and the avoidance of straining to 'realise' that presence. In all he writes there is good counsel and help to prayer.

THE SUPPLEMENT TO *La Vie Spirituelle* (No. 8) continues its policy of providing documentation on special questions of spirituality. Of special importance are two articles on the Parish and Catholic Action; the one by Père Henry, O.P., appealing for the primacy of Charity as the unitive factor in the apostolate, the other by Dom de Feligonde on the religious life of the pastoral clergy. In the same number the debate continues on the adaptations demanded in women's orders by modern circumstances, this time St Thomas being invoked on the general question of the modification of human laws.

REVISTA DI VITA SPIRITUALE (Rome), edited by the Discalced Carmelites, has in its latest issue studies on Acquired Contemplation by P. Gabriele di S. Maria and on Spiritual Tepidity by P. Virgilio di S. Alberto. A useful feature is a 'Little Catechism of Spirituality', the instalment in the present number being concerned with the Purgative Way.

SPONSA REGIS (St Paul, Minnesota) is 'a Review for Sisters', and recent numbers reveal a wider interest than is usual in such publications. Apart from technical articles of special interest to members of religious orders, there are liturgical and historical studies which reveal the salutary influence of St John's Abbey, Collegeville, which is responsible for this useful review.

LA REVUE DES COMMUNAUTES RELIGIEUSES, edited by Fathers of the Society of Jesus, includes in each issue relevant Roman documents and answers to questions of canon law. The March issue considers 'The Liturgical Life and Exercises of Piety', an article which should be useful to those orders of women which are not bound to the recitation of the Divine Office but wish to develop a spirituality rooted in the liturgy.

LA VIE SPIRITUELLE (March) has a translation of the sections of Fr Bede Jarrett's *Meditations for Layfolk* that deal with prayer. An excellent number also includes a form of the Way of the Cross drawn from the Epistles of St Paul as well as an account of the *Fraternité Catholique des Malades*, an association for the sanctification of the sick, by Père P. D'Argenlieu, O.P.



BOOKS RECEIVED

- Bloomsbury Publishing Co.* Sister Mary Ansgar, O.P.: *Angels at Home*, 1s. 6d.
Burns, Oates and Washbourne. Pierce Ahearn and Michael Lanc: *Pontifical Ceremonies*, 21s.; J. Lebreton, S.J.: *Life and Teaching of Jesus Christ*, 21s.; Christopher Wilmot, S.J.: *Lift Up Your Hearts*, 7s. 6d.
Casterman. L. de Corrinck, S.J.: *Problème de l'adaptation en apostolat*, 45fr.; Cl. Duval-Aumont: *La Natalité au Foyer*, 36fr.
Catholic Worker. Dorothy Day: *On Pilgrimage*, n.p.
Cerf. Maria Winowska: *La Fou de Notre Dame*, 45fr.
Duckett. Francis J. Ripley (Compiler): *A Daily Thought*, 6d.
Organ. Wilkinson Sherren: *St Monica*, 2s. 6d.
Phoenix Press. Hugo Manning: *Beyond the Terminus of the Stars*, 5s.
Quotta Press (Belfast). T. M. O'Connor: *Judas*, 1s. 8d.
Sheed and Ward. Caryl Houselander: *The Passion of the Infant Jesus*, 6s.; Ronald Knox: *The Creed in Slow Motion*, 8s. 6d.

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