

Blackfriars

test of a work of this kind in that it makes the reader anxious to re-read the original writings of the Saint.

The difficult task of translation has been well carried out, and only one or two Gallicisms seem to have slipped into the text.

THE SUNNY WALL. By Cecily Hallack. (Burns, Oates & Washbourne, Ltd.; 7/6.)

In reading this story one is carried through on an easy-flowing stream of events: there are no jolts or jars. It isn't exactly roses, roses all the way, but there is a soothing atmosphere—a pervading gaiety and quiet serenity even amid sad and disturbing happenings. The slender plot grows out of a chance meeting in a railway carriage. Those who share Miss Hallack's outlook will perhaps prefer to call it a *providential* meeting, and they will follow the delicate unfolding of the plot as they would the natural and supernatural sequence of events that are happening every day. We are introduced to a little circle of friends: we listen to their talk: we are cheered by their rosy optimism in face sometimes of tragic inducements to pessimism: we are inspired by their faith. Barring the next world, this is the best of all possible worlds. When the reader is on the point of being oppressed by the boisterous heartiness and aggressive cheerfulness of the young Franciscan, he can take refuge in the delightful spaniel, Chadband, or in Obediah, the swearing parrot. Moreover, there is a ghost or two to evoke other moods.

But it is not so much the story as the graceful telling of the story that we have found a prolonged joy. Miss Hallack extols 'the austere luxuries of the vagrant: the ancient freshness of stone and star, the tree-breathed air of a road beyond the towns, the vivid innocence of dew, the sounding silence in which a branch may creak and a bird cry.' The pedantic reader will notice *whom* for *who* on pages 194, 259, and 285; but the unsophisticated will read through with delight a very joyful book.

K.

IS THE CHRISTIAN RELIGION TRUE? By the Rev. O. R. Vassall-Phillips, C.S.S.R. With a preface by Father Ronald Knox. Pp. xii, 213. (London: Burns, Oates and Washbourne, 1929; 1/6.)

A veteran apostle of the faith gives us in this volume the first part of his *Catholic Christianity* (1916), that is to say, the part containing the Christian demonstration. The argu-