

Blackfriars

not only a great enlarger of the Church's foreign missions, but he was also one of the 'Popes of the Concordats,' who reconstructed the fallen Churches of more than half Europe—yet not one word is said about this in the sketch of his life.

F.R.B.

DE SACRAMENTIS : Vol. I. *De Sacramentis in genere. De Bap-tismo, De Confirmatione*; in-8 max., 1929, pag viii-174. 7 lire. Vol. II. *De Eucharistia, De Poenitentia, De Ex-trema Unctione, De Ordine, De Matrimonio*; in-8 max., 1931, pag. iv-340. 14 lire. By P. Adeod. M. Schembri, O.S.A. (Turin : Maretti.)

This is a treatise in speculative theology. It will therefore prove of more immediate interest to the teacher than to the practitioner. The author, worthy representative of the Augustinian school, sets forth in a clear and scholarly manner, the positive teaching of the Church and offers at the same time solutions (not necessarily acceptable) of the various well-known minor problems in the speculative treatment of the Sacraments. It is natural that the author should found his work on the teaching of St. Augustine, but the horde of minor theologians whose opinions are adduced might well have given place to the weightier pronouncements of St. Thomas and the other great Doctors of the Church who are quoted all too rarely.

H.J.C.

MY RUSSIAN VENTURE. By Mrs. Cecil Chesterton. (George G. Harrap & Co., Ltd. ; 8/6.)

Soviet Russia is the Mecca of journalists, writers, snobs anxious to be up-to-date in every way, and also international business-men, great and small, eager to get away with some of the spoils of a once wealthy country. Naturally the Third International, the *de facto* Government of Russia, allows only a certain category of travellers to cross her boundary, and seldom commits the blunder of granting visas to persons whose previous knowledge of the country and its language would make them propaganda-proof. Yet these two conditions are essential for an impartial and reliable account.