

## **Blackfriars**

Two chapters deal with *The Roman Question* from 1796 to 1929, and two with *The Temporal Sovereignty*. These and the chapter on Fascism and the Church are of absorbing interest. Mr. Moore is far from being a carping critic of Mussolini. On the contrary he sees in him virtues that Americans are not always willing to recognise in dictators. 'The Prisoners of the Vatican' is another chapter that will grip the reader's attention. The appendices add great value to the work. They include the text in English of the Lateran Treaty and the Concordat, as well as the most useful chronological table of Popes and Emperors and a rich bibliography. The twenty illustrations are well chosen. 'The Vatican City as seen from an Aeroplane' (frontispiece) shows the new city in clear, beaded outline. On p. 208 we see a good plan of the Vatican City.

Mr. Moore is an American (U.S.) diplomat with considerable experience of life in Italy and Spain. His book is an excellent 12/6 worth. V.O'H.

**THE SECRET PLACES.** By R. Francis Foster. (Elkin, Matthews and Marrott, Ltd.; 3/6.)

Most of these secret places are within a 'bus ride from London, and Captain Forster writes of them as an appreciative Londoner rather than as a countryman, so that the book makes its first appeal to readers of the (London) *Evening News*, in which much of it first appeared: he reveals no detailed observation or relish of Nature, and he makes diagrams rather than pictures; but he tells us of people he met on his journeys, shows a hearty appreciation of beer and small inns, and he sometimes tells a story. I wish he were always direct in his diction; I find the reiteration of archaisms irritating; and he seems to place more reliance on Mr. Belloc's manner than his own. These essays will delight those Londoners who enjoy a long day's walk in the country, and I think the book will be found in many motor cars!

R.R.

**MYSTICAL PRAYER ACCORDING TO ST. JANE DE CHANTAL** (93 pages). **MYSTICAL PRAYER ACCORDING TO ST. FRANCIS DE SALES** (59 pages). By Auguste Saudreau. Translated by A. E. H. Swinstead. (2/6 each, Sheed and Ward.)

These little books are pleasing in every way; their format, the absence of printing errors, the easy-flowing English, and, above all, the clear, sound teaching they contain. The Abbé Saudreau, a recognised master on ascetic and mystic doctrine,