

REVIEWS

for they are two of the five primary sources of our knowledge of Augustine Baker. They gain a particular interest from the unconscious self-portrayal of their authors; Dom Peter Salvin, the Catholic squire's son from the north, with his candid piety, ingenuous, rather slow; and Dom Seremus Cressy, the convert Caroline divine, one with the metaphysical poets in his intricate thought. Yet the chief value of this book is derived from Dom Justin's scholarship and contained in the appendices, not the text.

G.M.

MARIE ANTOINETTE. By Stefan Zweig. Translated by Eden and Cedar Paul. (New York: The Viking Press, 1933; \$3.50.)

This book of four hundred and fifty closely-packed large-octavo pages has been hailed as a masterpiece of biographical literature and a triumph of historical research. It is being read on two continents and in fifteen different languages. Full of dramatic force, and steeped in the spirit of the eighteenth century, it reminds us of *Jew Süß*—documented and scholarly history written like a novel. It claims to be a psychological study of Marie Antoinette, viewed neither as the wanton Massalina of the revolutionist, nor as the martyred Queen of the royalist, but as a mediocrity and an average woman. Most certainly it is a powerful work, powerfully written and admirably translated. But it cannot be recommended without reservations. Its coarseness and frankness are beyond belief. One chapter in particular is almost an outrage, and parts of others are equally unpleasant. The author does not seem to know what reticence is.

F.R.B.

FREDERICK OZANAM. By H. L. Hughes, B.A., D.Litt. (London: Alexander Ouseley; pp. 191; 3/6.)

Allons aux pauvres. 'It would be better,' said Ozanam to his friends, 'if we Catholic young men, instead of wasting breath on these vapid discussions, were to form a society of our own and concentrate our energies on relieving the troubles of the poor.' This was a hundred years ago, but the Society exists, and many admire, but many more have cause to be grateful for, its efficient and undemonstrative work. Practice is better than precept. An article in the present number of *BLACKFRIARS* on the centenary of the S.V.P. may serve as an introduction to a biography of its founder by Fr. Hughes—a welcome book, which sets Ozanam in the nineteenth century scene, and points the urgent need of the extension of his work at the present time.

N.W.T.G.