

THE QUEEN'S OWN. By Sister M. Assumpta O'Hanlon, O.P. (Linham & Shrimpton; Douglas Organ; n.p.)

This little book comes as a welcome and timely stimulus to follow the lead of Our Lady's Champions, the story of whose labours for the honour of the Mother of God is set before us in its pages. These champions are Mother Margaret Hallahan, O.P., St Grignon de Montfort, and Mary Potter. The book is written in an attractive and vigorous style. It should encourage readers to seek for more detailed lives of these three great servants of God.

If the book reaches a second edition some reference might be made to the following facts:

The canonisation of Saint Louis-Marie Grignon took place in 1947. (Even the dust-jacket here calls him only 'Blessed'.) The amalgamation of the Congregation founded by Mother Mary Hallahan with the four more recently founded Congregations now forms the Congregation of St Catherine of Siena. The Mother House is at Stone, and the Noviciate at Stroud. The Decree from Rome is dated 1929. In the Archdiocese of Birmingham the Tribunal of enquiry has been established and Articles drawn up for the Informative process of the beatification of Mother Margaret Hallahan. The Articles were drawn up in Rome in 1936. S.A.R., O.P.

CHRIST OUR LIGHT. By W. Stephenson, S.J. (Browne & Nolan; 8s.6d.)

There is more perhaps to be said in favour of unoriginal prayer books than is nowadays generally admitted. In a neurotic age—and we might as well admit that we live in one—human life is kept moving by alternate doses of sedative and stimulant. To say the least, we are in danger of becoming too dependent on such stimuli before we can pray. Baron von Hügel once said: 'I kiss my son not only because I love him but in order to increase my love'—or words to that effect. The same principle applies to prayer; love-making does in fact make love, because love is basically an act of the will, not a dizzy sensation. Certainly we need to learn how to pray—so did the apostles—but prayer like all art is learnt by practice. Fr Stephenson's book of meditations pays us the compliment of asking us to co-operate with the Holy Spirit in this practice; he offers little original stimulus for the imagination; he presents the fundamental truths of religion in traditional language. It may perhaps be said, even complained, that these meditations contain a certain amount of undigested theology. Well, if we must have stimulus for prayer, why not provide it by doing our own mental digestion?

GERARD MEATH, O.P.

AUX SOURCES DE NOTRE UNION DIVINE. By Chanoine Paul Thone. (Casterman, Paris; n.p.)

A slight book, best described as enlarged points for meditation on the Holy Ghost and the effects of his presence in us. Two criticisms: to write of the Holy Ghost, after Saint Catherine of Siena; as giving himself to us in 'L'obscur lumière des claires ténèbres'

and that thereby we come to the knowledge of the Truth is rather disconcerting for the ordinary reader, for whom most obviously this book is intended, and may produce the very idea the author is trying to destroy, that the Holy Ghost is the preserve of mystics; and to insinuate that we neither know nor appreciate the Holy Ghost, after Manning, Landrieux and Kearney, seems to drive unnecessary wedges between the Persons of the Trinity. 'Who sees me sees the Father' is, I think, more than a statement; it is a principle as well that we ought not to try and separate the Trinity even in our own minds. In the present instance, that principle might be translated: 'Who loves God loves the Spirit of God', or 'Who knows Jesus knows the Spirit of Jesus'. It might be necessary to emphasise that we do not always advert to our knowledge, love and honour of the Holy Ghost, but it is false to insinuate that we know nothing about him, and know that we know nothing about him, and do not care.

TERENCE TANNER.

THE CHURCH AND THE SAILOR: A Survey of the Sea-Apostolate Past and Present. By Peter F. Anson. (Gifford; 7s.6d.)

Not for the first time Mr Anson has written a book which makes us wonder why no one had written it before. This straightforward account of the sea apostolate, prefaced by notes on seafaring saints and early work by priests at sea and containing sensibly large quotations from important documents which are otherwise hard to come by, has an obvious value as a work of reference. It is more than that, for it brings before its readers such relatively unknown delights as *The Wanderings of Brother Felix Fabri*, and by information, comment and suggestion gives much to think about in connection with Catholic Action. There is a fair supply of misprints which includes a pleasing sentence about St Francis Xavier sailing 'two thousand miles of stormy, pirate-ridden seas to the lands of pepper and clover'.

A.R.

EYES OF MERCY. By Edwin Essex, O.P. (Irish Rosary; 7s.6d.)

During the past twenty-five years Fr Edwin Essex has been a distinguished contributor to 'The Irish Rosary'. Through a happy suggestion of the Editor, a selection of his stories and sketches has now been published. These will delight his many admirers and make many new ones, for these stories and sketches have a charm at once simple and irresistible.

K.M.

THEY BUILT ON ROCK. By Diana Leatham. (Glasgow, The Celtic Art Society; 15s.)

This is a delightful and original book, delightful in the lively and colourful picture of the Celtic saints which it gives, and original in its use of legends and historical monographs so that, neither embarrassing the other, they combine to make a sufficiently accurate account without losing the spirit and atmosphere conveyed by the legends. Miss Leatham shows the unity of the monks of Scotland, Ireland and Wales with each other, with those of Gaul, and through Gaul with those of Egypt. The saints discussed at length are Martin,