

In Mr Colgrave's translation the life reads easily and pleasantly and a wealth of incidental information about the Fen country and its people in the eighth century can be picked up. For those of more scholarly tastes Mr Colgrave provides an exhaustive historical and literary background and a complete textual apparatus. The original text edited here gives to the curious a nice example of how the Latin language may be tortured and yet survive.

U.F.

ST BERNADETTE. By Leonard von Matt and Francis Trochu. (Longmans; 30s.)

A meditative pause before opening this pictorial biography of St Bernadette is inevitable. The eyes that looked at the Blessed Virgin seem to look at you from the photograph of the saint on the dust-jacket. And inside what a glorious collection of pictures awaits you, and a text, too, that is worthy of the subject. The quality of the photographs, their selection and arrangement are beyond superlatives of praise.

Mr Leonard von Matt has used photographs of the days of Bernadette, but he has done much more than that. The past becomes the present through his ingenious camera-work; the scenes of Bernadette's childhood come alive; we can follow the unfolding of her life from the moment she was singled out by Our Lady until her perpetual rest in death. Present-day peasant girls take her place in localities that she knew, doing such things as she did. We visit houses she lived in; we enter convents where she grew in spiritual stature. We see the grotto as Bernadette knew it and as it later came to be. We can examine the clothes she wore on the momentous occasions. We can study the evidence of her educational progress, of her artistic ability. We can ponder the features of personalities in her life, the family, her parish priest, her formidable novice-mistress, government officials. And, in the end, we can linger over the exquisite loveliness of Bernadette asleep in death.

Mgr Francis Trochu's swiftly-moving commentary, combined with Mr von Matt's photographic skill, results in an original biography and a magnificent tribute to our Lady's little shepherdess.

KIERAN MULVEY, O.P.

A CEDAR OF LEBANON. By Paul Daher, O.L.M., S.T.L., PH.D. Translated by L. E. Whatmore, M.A., F.R.HIST.S. (Browne and Nolan; 15s.)

Charbel Makhoulf (Sharbel Makhluif) was a Maronite of the Lebanon who lived from 1828 to 1898. He became a monk, and spent twenty-three years as a hermit, a way of life still provided for in the Maronite