

LITURGICAL MEDITATIONS for the Entire Year. By the Sisters of St Dominic. (B. Herders Book Co.)

These two volumes will be most useful additions to the library of any Convent of English-speaking Sisters. The title, and somewhat condensed form of the matter, certainly suggest a book for private meditation where one reads a little and thinks a lot, but they would be equally suitable for reading aloud. The familiar stories are told with a freshness that is pleasing and brief, and this without savouring of mere journalism. The spiritual side is emphasised in a manner both sublime and practical, so that points may be gathered on every page, and the points, being spiritual, will be applicable to those engaged in all varieties of active work as well as to enclosed nuns. From a liturgical point of view the usefulness of the volumes is more difficult to assess; except that they follow the Liturgical Calendar and quote from the Liturgy and Scriptures, there seems to be no definitely liturgical emphasis. That the pages on so great a Master as St Augustine should terminate with a quotation from St Gertrude seems a little strange—not for want of appreciation of that very holy woman, but because one would somehow expect words from St Augustine himself, or else from the liturgy for his feast—but perhaps the unexpected does move, and set us thinking. St Remigius is headed with the words, 'Behold a great priest who in his days pleased God' (Epistle)—true, it is an epistle, the epistle of the feast of a great priest, but it is also a quotation from Ecclesiasticus, chapter 44, and is perhaps equally well known as the antiphon, *Ecce Sacerdos*, sung so sonorously in many a parish choir as the local Ordinary enters the church. This feeling of vagueness where the liturgy is concerned will perhaps disappear if the book is used, as it rightly would be, day by day, in union with the Liturgy; perhaps it is hardly fair to criticise it as a thing apart. It is surely a book by Sisters for Sisters, and presupposes the liturgical life.

Although Dominican Saints and Blessed occupy all their feasts, the Sundays have the Roman numbering and all the greater feasts their place. The Dominicans do not monopolise the three hundred and sixty-five days of the year, and the modern Saints are included, so that Sisters of any Order or Congregation will find many friends among the holy men and women whose spirit is here set out for example and encouragement.

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