

## BOOK REVIEWS

THE POWER AND SECRET OF THE JESUITS. By René Fülöp Muller. (Putnam; 21/-.)

The importance of the Society of Jesus in the modern history of the Catholic Church has no need to be emphasised. To the outside world it has been an impressive embodiment of the Church Militant; inside the Church its influence has been, in every sphere, profound. This book tells the story of the Jesuits in a brilliant and attractive way. It will be useful as providing a general view of the activities of the Society. On the other hand, it cannot be considered as a serious contribution to religious history. In all critical questions it is entirely vague. To mention one point only: the Jesuit approach to the spiritual life. Both ancient and—since the liturgical movement—modern spirituality is characterised by corporateness and objectivity; it is averse altogether from the *solus cum solo* attitude. (We may instance such writers as the Abbots Marmion and Vonier, Père Clerissac and Karl Adam.) But Jesuit spirituality laid its emphasis on the individual; it was introspective and self analytical. Its method may be seen in elaborate examinations of conscience, systematic meditation and the Exercises. These are generalisations demanding detailed study. The author of this book, however, is content to solve the problem at once by attributing to St. Ignatius a frank confession of Pelagianism! The will of man is sufficient to attain perfection by itself alone!

The author may have been stunned—as we are—by his bibliography. A bibliography is certainly essential, but it has value only if it is a *selection* according to some standard. Mr. Fülöp Muller would probably have obtained a fairer idea of the true Jesuit spirit if he had concentrated on one book admittedly informed with that spirit—for example, Rodriguez, and contrasted it with a work of a different school, let us say, the Dialogue of St. Catherine of Siena.

A.M.

THE PREPARATORY SCHOOL. By Reginald Jebb. (Sheed & Ward; 3/6.)

A man writing about his own particular trade or craft or profession is worthy of our attention because he may be supposed to know what he is talking about. Of course there is a taboo against talking 'shop,' but that prohibition should only be urged (and if it has to be urged, let it be urged vehemently)

against the intolerable bore, the man of one idea, who can talk of nothing but himself. I confess that I have a liking for reading what schoolmasters have to say about schoolmastering, and at every opportunity I would indulge my liking and risk the 'shop.' I have read and re-read Mr. Jebb's admirable little book and realised that I ran no risk in this case. The Archbishop of Birmingham in his Preface says: 'I think it is the first book on schools, I am sure it is the first book on the preparatory school that I have met, which combines the Catholic faith, true educational theory, and sound practice.' So many books on education ignore or exclude the Catholic faith and thereby vitiate their theory and hamper their practice. Mr. Jebb does not believe that the schoolmaster is a civil servant or that it is ordinarily the function of the State to teach or educate. He believes that the schoolmaster is always acting *in loco parentis* and that a school is only an expedient for doing what cannot conveniently be done within the family. The family is the unit, the school is the expansion of the family, the schoolmaster acts under the instruction of the parent, who is ultimately responsible; thus he advocates the day school as the best kind of school because it maintains the paramount influence of the home. Mr. Jebb's experience has given him a very wise insight into that inscrutable thing, the soul of a boy, and he has some very penetrating analysis of the working and development of the young mind—wise and helpful without being Freudian.

If any schoolmaster or schoolmistress, whether of a public or an elementary school, or anyone who has to do with the training of the young, should happen to read these words, may I appeal to them to get and read this book? I hope and believe they will, after reading it, agree that they were well advised.

**THE SACRAMENTARY.** Historical and Liturgical Notes on the Roman Missal. By Idefonso Schuster, O.S.B. Translated from the Italian by Arthur Levelis-Marke. Volume V. (London: Burns, Oates & Washbourne, 1930; 15/-.)

Several times during the progress of this work we have taken occasion to congratulate the publishers on their courage and enterprise, and to thank them for the service which they were rendering to lovers of the liturgy. We may be allowed now, in noticing this fifth and final volume of *The Sacramentary*, to congratulate them on their perseverance. *Finis coronat opus*; a work noble in its conception and execution has now been brought to completion.