

BOOK REVIEWS

SAINT THOMAS AQUINAS, ANGEL OF THE SCHOOLS. By Jacques Maritain. A translation of *Le Docteur Angélique* made by J. F. Scanlan. (Sheed & Ward; pp. 240; 7/6.)

M. Maritain has been indeed unfortunate in his translator. His magnificent essay on St. Thomas, *Le Docteur Angélique*, was rightly hailed at its appearance as a new and valuable interpretation by a great Thomist of the fundamental importance and worth of Thomism, especially in our times and in view of modern world upheavals. In its English guise, too, it has already been received with no little enthusiasm, for even the defects of the translation have not completely overshadowed the value of the original. This essay is essentially French not merely in language but still more in concept. If it had to be rendered into English, it should have been done by one who could translate the concept as well as the words. Mr. Scanlan shows himself, in our opinion, unable to do either. Even if his word parallels were accurate—and often they are not—transliteration is not translation. Further he appears to be ignorant of the life and works of St. Thomas, and is unaware of the accurate terms of reference to Aristotle's works.

We quote one passage only, giving also the original French, but we offer it as a true sample :

' . . . the famous incident of temptation from which Thomas emerged with a cordon of angels.'	' . . . la célèbre scène de tentation dont Thomas sortit ceinturé par les Anges.'
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We cannot understand how the publishers' reader could have let this, and many other only less flagrant defects, pass his notice.

H.J.C.

THE WORDS OF THE MISSAL. By C. C. Martindale, S.J. (Sheed & Ward. Pp. 224; 6/-.)

From the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass Life is given to the whole Mystical Body on earth; in it every individual Catholic is united intimately to the Head of that Body. The Mass is the greatest fact in the world, the nearest approach of man to God. Any book, then, which attempts to show the value of this great fact in its various aspects—and the number of these books is significantly on the increase—must be welcomed with enthusiasm. The Mass is an action accompanied with words. These words form an essential part of it; so that to understand