

BLACKFRIARS

TABLES OF CONTENT. By André L. Simon. (Constable, London ; 7/6 net.)

This is not a manual for self indulgence, but it tells you how to treat a friend if you have the money to do it. If you are going to give a dinner, you might as well give a good one, and this book tells you how it is done. Next time I meet Mr. Simon I feel it is going to cost him a table of content. D.J.S.

IN PRAISE OF MARY. Thoughts on some of her Feasts and Titles. By Mothey Mary Philip, I.B.V.M. (Burns, Oates & Washbourne, Ltd. ; 3/6.)

In accordance with one of the principles of the liturgical revival that Catholics should find their chief source of spiritual nourishment in the liturgy, Mother Mary Philip has used the missal and breviary as the basis of these simple, practical thoughts on Our Lady. They might well be used for meditation. M.B.

THE INTERNATIONAL CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY PRESS SECRETARIAT INFORMATION SERVICE. Edition Française. November 1932-February 1933. (125-127 Rue Meurein, Lille (Nord), France.)

Any international movement, if it is to be successful, must be based on mutual understanding and be inspired by mutual sympathy. Experience shews how sympathy will always follow understanding. PAX ROMANA has realised this fundamental truth in setting on foot *The International Catholic University Press Secretariat* which endeavours by its *Information Service* to make known the activities of Catholic students in the various countries of the world and thereby to contribute to the mutual understanding of these students. In this way it responds to the Pope's appeal to Catholic Action. This first enlarged edition of its reports clearly indicates the necessity and the scope of this *Information Service*. Such a work surely calls for a generous collaboration from all University students whatever their nationality. B.P.

THE 'MILITIA OF JESUS CHRIST.'

Too often is the Third Order of St. Dominic regarded as little else than a pious confraternity. The ANALECTA of the Order of Preachers reproduce an important encyclical letter from the Dominican Master General recalling the origins of the Third Order as an active apostolic organisation and calling for a restoration of its original characteristics. 'It was,' he reminds us, in the towns that St. Dominic, divinely inspired, founded

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his priories. They were not only, like the monasteries which preceded them, schools of religious life and prayer . . . they were still more the fortresses whence the soldiers of the Faith issued forth for their peaceful conquest of the world.' From its very beginnings there gathered around the Dominican houses groups of clerical and lay helpers who put themselves under the direction and influence of the Friars to co-operate in their apostolic labours and to establish contact between the Order and the world. It was these who were organised in 1285 into the Third Order of St. Dominic to form an international army of the 'Militia,' the shock-troops, of Jesus Christ. The need for a more active realisation of the militant and apostolic mission of the Third Order was never so great as to-day, and the Master General requires its members to respond to the call of the Holy See to Catholic Action. The Tertiary is essentially an *apostle*; the encyclical outlines ways in which his apostolate is to be realised—in the family, in the parish, in society, in the cultural and intellectual sphere. Tertiaries are warned against that exaggerated devotion to the Order which may make them lose interest and contact with everything outside it and forget the needs of the Church at large and the world around them. This would be to mistake the Dominican spirit and their own vocation, for it is by active loyalty and devotion to the hierarchy and their parochial clergy that they must fulfil their Dominican calling. They must not rest satisfied with meetings and chapters; they must radiate Catholic and Dominican influence in the outside world. Nor must they be content with enthusiasm for specifically Catholic works; the Master General calls them to join whole-heartedly in undenominational and secular enterprises in order to make Catholic influences felt in scientific, artistic, social and political circles. They are Dominicans living in the world and their mission is to exercise the Dominican apostolate in their own secular surroundings. And because the Dominican apostolate is specifically an *intellectual* apostolate, it is with this that they will be especially occupied. In this they will be the disciples of St. Thomas, whose thought was not a mere weaving of abstractions but a response to the concrete problems of his age. There is an urgent need for closer collaboration of Catholic theologians and philosophers with the secular thought of the day, with scholars, economists, lawyers, doctors, technicians, business men, civil servants, politicians. 'Is it not among our Tertiaries that such collaboration should be attempted?' asks the Master General. He concludes by convoking an international congress of the Third Order at Rome next February.

V.W.