

Blackfriars

and painstaking research. The wealth of dates and names of places and persons is sometimes superabundant, while the briefness of the account whets our appetite tantalisingly for more details from such works as Bishop de Burgo's *Hibernia Dominicana*, and especially from convent annals. The excuse that these annals 'have received due attention from the laudable zeal of the Catholic Record Society,' is one we are loth to accept, since copies of the works of this society, whose chief aim is one of preservation, are printed, so far as I know, only in small numbers, and without a view to general publication. But no doubt Mrs. Concannon has given compensation at least in regard to one Order, in another book of hers, *The Poor Clares in Ireland*.

Excellentlly printed and well illustrated, *Irish Nuns in Penal Days* is a good half-crown's worth.

M.B.

THEOLOGY. A Monthly Journal of Historic Christianity.

Edited by E. G. Selwyn, D.D. October, 1931. (S.P.C.K.; One Shilling.)

Many readers of BLACKFRIARS must know this valuable review — 'catholic and critical' — which represents the best sort of modernism outside the Church. It is gratifying for the Thomist to note its ever growing appreciation of his position. There are many echoes of St. Thomas's teaching in a long and thoughtful article by Dr. Leonard Hodgson on *The Christian Idea of Liberty*. Scarcely surprising, perhaps, since St. Thomas but witnessed to Christian life and tradition. Freedom does not lie in a capacity for sin, but is ours for a purpose; literally a share in the divine freedom—the specifically Christian note. It is refreshing to find this unconscious defence of the Papal condemnations of *Liberalismus*—in reality a sound piece of Pauline practice, but too often a boggy: obscurantist priests panicking over the Gladstonian Ideal and vainly trying to continue the policy of the Congress of Vienna long after the fall of Metternich. Evoked in the *Editorial* is another boggy, of the imperialistic Latin Church throttling the life of the Spirit with its principles and methods. Only the insider can know how little it cramps his style, as little as Bradshaw the lordly beauty of the Royal Scot steaming down Trent Valley. We may make our own what Mrs. Ellis Roberts says on *The Attitude and Challenge of the World to the Church To-day*. The attacks of the intelligentsia are far less serious than the ignorance and indifference of ordinary people. The former are opportunities, the latter tragedy.

T.G.