

**A HUNDRED HOMELESS YEARS.** By Godfrey Anstruther, O.P. (Blackfriars Publications; 22s. 6d.)

In this valuable work Father Anstruther has collected together many interesting facts about the English Dominicans who lived between the years 1558 and 1658, and has added the names of a number of friars hitherto unknown, thereby earning the gratitude not only of his brethren but of all lovers of the Dominican Order. Some readers however may be puzzled by the generous space afforded to the careers of three apostate friars, Alexander Bailey, William Sacheverell and the infamous Thomas Gage, but considering the repentance of the first two, and the alleged penitence of Gage, we can sympathize with the author's desire to leave nothing unwritten that could add to the completeness of his study; and we must admit that he gives pride of place in his history to the story of that most courageous of martyrs, the Venerable Robert Nutter, who before laying down his life in 1600 spent no fewer than fifteen years in prison, being tortured unmercifully for weeks on end in Newgate in 1584. Justice is also done to the holy life and marvellous patience of Father Middleton, for thirty-three years superior of his brethren in England, ruling them for a considerable period from his prison cell. Only by the merest chance was he robbed of the martyr's crown. To obtain some idea of what he and his fellow Dominicans had to suffer it suffices to note that in his index Father Anstruther lists sixty-five references to various periods of imprisonment endured by them before 1658.

That is the closing date of the author's period, but it would have been a welcome gesture to have noted the truly extraordinary sanctity of Father Robert Armstrong, founder of the Hexham mission, who died five years later, whose holiness seems to have been such as one finds in the lives of the canonized. The contemporary obituary notices refer to him as 'Renowned amongst the people for his sanctity, terrible to the demons, he brought back many families from heresy to the Catholic faith'. Fifty years after his death the Catholics in those parts still spoke of his remarkable holiness, as was witnessed by the provincial, Father Thomas Worthington, in 1710.

The book is excellently printed, but it is a pity that the ruins of the old Dominican priory at Rhuddlan pictured on the dust-cover are nowhere named in the volume.

WALTER GUMBLEY, O.P.

**THE SPIRITANS.** A History of the Congregation of the Holy Ghost. By Henry J. Koren, C.S.SP. (Duquesne University, U.S.A.; Cloth \$6.50, paper \$5.75.)

Once one has recovered from the extreme Americanism of the appearance of this volume, the book itself is admirable. Let him forget