

Book Reviews

term themselves 'son of the priest N.N.,' for the marriage of the clergy in the Greek Church was and is recognised. One of the signatories is of more than ordinary interest, Richard Palmer, an Englishman and Bishop-elect of Syracuse, a friend of St. Thomas à Becket and a favourite of William I of Sicily.

There seems to be some confusion in the numbering of this volume, for on the cover it is called Vol. xix. 1, No. 62, while on the inside sheet it is called xvii. 3, No. 60, and Miss Robinson speaks of it as 'the third volume of the History of the Monastery.' The glossary of terms is most useful, so too is the list of Byzantine officials.

H.P.

THE PSALMS EXPLAINED FOR PRIESTS AND STUDENTS. With Introductions, Paraphrases and Notes by C. J. Callan, O.P., and J. A. McHugh, O.P.; with a Preface by Fr. J. M. Vosté, O.P., SS.D., etc. (New York: Wagner; pp. 524; 18/-.)

This is really an excellent piece of work and should prove most useful. There is a capital Introduction, and the Notes are brief and to the point. The Vulgate text and a paraphrase founded on but freely departing from the Douay Version are given in parallel columns, while each Psalm is furnished with an introductory note showing the theme and the moral teaching conveyed. We may not always agree with the Notes, but there can be no doubt that many priests will find this volume a help in the recitation of their Breviary, though perhaps the price may discourage them.

H.P.

GOD'S BOOK AND OTHER POEMS. By Fr. Vincent McNabb, O.P. (Hand printed and published at St. Dominic's Press, Ditchling, Sussex; 5/-.)

Father Vincent McNabb has himself said, in a preface to a volume of poems by a fellow Dominican, that the priest who has lost the divine sense of song is on the way to losing his soul, so it is not surprising that in spite of his life-long labours as a preacher, essayist, and controversialist, he has found time to write the score and a half of poems that are here collected for the first time. But if the book is slim in bulk, it is full of the broad wisdom of experience and meditation. May we add that the popular friar has probably inspired far more verses than he has himself written? One maker of verses, at least, has had the privilege of Father McNabb's encouragement and inspiration during the past twenty years.

Blackfriars

These gathered fragments of song that remain over and above a life of varied activities reflect and capture the hidden moods that have come to the friar preacher in his Spartan cell. A brooding tenderness is here—fitting fruit, indeed, of that Spirit of Truth whose champion the author stands proclaimed—and an air of wistfulness that find expression in homely words and homelier rhymes. Direct in pulpit as on platform, the poet characteristically shuns the inverted phrase and intrusive epithet, to follow simply each golden aim to its appointed truth. Yet he can turn an epigram with the best, and build an emblem at will. Nor is he fancy-free, with that rare fancy that can find a sacramental in the tear-stirred dust.

Sweet is morn dew. The rose is sweet at noon.
And sweet at eve the honeysuckle bower.
But sweeter—though its sweetness dies so soon—
Is summer dust new-kissed by summer shower.

God's angels have great joy whene'er at eve
White flocks of sinless earth-birds flutter in,
But O! how welcome they whose tears achieve
The timid whiteness of forgiven sin.

Any poet, except Father McNabb, might feel a just pride in those first four lines. They possess the perfect art of simplicity, pause and phrase.

The woodcuts add a stern dignity to this handsome book. But why does the frontispiece painting of the author strike us who know him so well as not *quite* true to life?

Many of poems appeared in *BLACKFRIARS*, though there is no indication of the fact in the publisher's brief note.

E.E.

THE FOOTSTEPS OF SIR THOMAS MORE. By A. B. Teetgen.
(Sands & Co.; 3/6.)

Anyone wishing to be his own cicerone over the various houses and places frequented by Blessed Thomas More could do no better than buy this little book full of the most accurate and up-to-date information about the martyr. There are some valuable reproductions of illustrations and there are also a few imaginary ones, but even these, under the guidance, one presumes, of Mr. Longstaff, have the substance of verisimilitude. No student of More's life, however well-informed, can fail to profit by this excellent piece of work.

W.E.C.