

## **Blackfriars**

the other was too young. And we were sad, both of us, because we had not been taken to early Mass,' to a Catholic the conclusion of the sentence betrays the disguise, not 'to hear the singing and to see the Christmas candles' do even the oldest or the youngest of us go to Mass. But non-Catholics will believe the book written by a Catholic and will infer that the Church holds or allows views which in reality are wholly contrary to the truths she teaches.

Possibly the translator is to blame for the word Mass. If so it must be almost her only fault. Even in a borrowed tongue there is a magic fascination about the very simplicity of the style which sometimes rises to dramatic heights. Some of the legends are purely charming, and if, in a second edition, certain passages were cut out of *The Flight into Egypt* and *In the Temple* were omitted, or re-written without ascribing ignorance to the Word made Flesh, the book, as a whole, would no longer be unacceptable to the majority of Christians.

The illustrations, though unequal in merit, are original in composition and generally pleasing. The frontispiece is especially good.

M.B.

**PRAYER FOR ALL TIMES.** Translated by Maud Monahan from *La Prière de toutes les heures* by Pierre Charles, S.J., Professor of Theology in Louvain. Third series. (Sands and Co.; 5/- net.)

This third series of *Prayer for All Times* will be gratefully welcomed by the many who have rejoiced in the two first volumes. Père Charles writes with the rather rare combination of marked originality in thought and expression together with strong practical commonsense. He warns us in the prologue not to expect lyricism, but he often comes very near it, as in his description of children in the meditation *Beati pauperes*.

The force and swing of the original French has been wonderfully preserved, as might be expected from the name of the translator. She has usually found the right word with the instinct of a born writer, and this makes the occasional wrong one the more obvious. Also there are several grammatical slips which suggest hurried proof-reading.

It is a pity the words *Third Series* do not appear on the cover. The book is likely to be passed over by book buyers who already possess the first or second series and who will take this for the same book.

M.B.