

## BLACKFRIARS

IL RAGGUAGLIO 1938. (Istit. Prop. Libreria, Milan. Lire 12.)

In the ninth year of publication, this Annual is at once a survey, a sketch and a documentation of the output of Catholics in Italy in the realm of Art and Letters during the past year. Many important Catholic writers either write in it, or are written about, notably the Florentine group who produce the *Frontespizio*, Papini, Bargellini, Giuliotti, Giordani, etc., and including several priests. It is a synthesis of the effort of the Catholic literary and artistic movement in Italy at the present day. There is a series of articles on certain world-affairs that a Catholic thinker should think about: an historical note on God and Caesar is early Christian Rome, a criticism of the fashion of "race-consciousness," analyses of the problems of China and of Palestine; and the position of Spain is most fittingly represented by the full text of the Joint Pastoral of the Spanish Episcopate of last July (and it is good to have at hand this fine document). Among other such articles is a valuable one on the "Catholic Action" of Saint Charles Borromeo by religious instruction, and the new opportunities for the continuation of this spirit in modern Italy; and a note on the fresh trend of the Accademia d'Italia. Current Italian Catholic literary work is surveyed in several articles, and very interesting is the section (profusely illustrated) on modern art, chiefly sacred. Some lovely things—for instance, p. 59, 60, 67, 102. Some good wood-engraved tail-pieces. A Dominican is pleased to note some delicate drawings of Padre Pistarino as tail-pieces (pp. 139, 325, 346). Some writers and their work are sketched individually, sometimes by a skit, but several cartoons are lacking in taste. The last eighty pages are an exhaustive documentation: lists of Catholic publishing houses (also of music, for which the heading is missing after l.ii on p. 464), and their output (including quite a lot of translation—G.K.'s Autobiography for one); lists of Catholic writers, artists and musicians of Italy (with addresses). The many publishers' advertisements are useful. The whole gives an impression of a lot of work, recounted in a light vein and with a Christian humility, and is indicative of the refflorescence in modern Italy of Catholic Art and Letters, which is only too little known beyond the Alps.

SEBASTIAN BULLOUGH, O.P.

## NOTICES

THE CHURCH AND REUNION. By Fr. Vincent McNabb, O.P. (Burns, Oates; 6s.)

Fr. Vincent McNabb has gathered together articles written by him in various periodicals between 1902 and 1936, on questions concerning reunion. The result is a little book which is well worth