

REVIEWS

consistent foreign policy: pleasure at the remark that Mr. Lloyd George is a squirrel ('Oh! il est très intelligent, mais quelle incohérence d'idées!'): suggestion in the idea of the Rhine regarded as the frontier, not of France, but of Germany: surprise at the lack of enthusiasm for Poland ('Enfin, puisqu'elle existe, il faut la soutenir.'): hesitation over the tribute to us for the last summer offensives, 'A la fin, les Anglais marchaient avec la foi du charbonnier.'

N.W.

HANDBOOK TO THE UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD. (Oxford, at the Clarendon Press, Humphrey Milford, 1932; pp. x, 465; 24 plates, 4 maps and plans; 5/-.)

The price is modest for this well-produced volume in dark-blue. The first part gives a descriptive account of the University, and the second a guide to its various rules and regulations. It is a book to delight all lovers of Oxford, and of great convenience to all who propose to become members of the University. There is a slip in the historical chapter. William Allen of Oriel is made to found a Jesuit College at Douai. And what would William Bishop of Gloucester Hall, Bishop of Chalcedon, have thought of the subsequent remark, that Oxford men of the time incurred martyrdom 'for Jesuit ideals'?

N.W.T.G.

AFRICAN ANGELUS: EPISODES AND IMPRESSIONS. By C. C. Martindale, S.J. (Sheed & Ward; 7/6 net.)

It was surely, for his readers, a fortunate motor-accident in New Zealand that resulted in Fr. Martindale's being sent again to seek the sun—this time in South Africa. He left London on a cold December day and on the way to Tilbury nearly had another motor-accident; and 'anyway,' he says, 'I didn't want to go.' He was told to stop work. But he didn't. This big book contains the episodes and impressions of his *holiday*.

His objective was the Jesuit missions in Rhodesia, but his tour took in the chief cities and towns of the Union of South Africa. He determined to learn all he could about Catholic missions in Africa, so as to be able to tell us all about them on his return. He landed at Cape Town with-

BLACKFRIARS

out any formed opinions about the local, national, or racial problems of the country. But during his tour he read dozens of books on African topics and as he writes he gives necessary facts and information in order to make the reader understand the conglomeration that is Africa. He mentions events and the impressions they produced practically in the order in which they reached him; amid the adventures we hear him thinking aloud.

There is hardly a dull page in the book. The episodes are delightful and the impressions valuable. And there are many fine passages of descriptive writing. He saw the big cities and towns, the compounds, the leper settlement; he went down mines and went up in aeroplanes. He lived in the veldt and spent many happy days with the natives, sharing the lives of the missionaries and roughing it with them. He visited dozens of convents and pays tribute to the splendid work of the Nuns of the Assumption, the Sisters of Notre Dame and the ubiquitous Dominican nuns. Incidentally, the famous pioneer Assumptionist, Mother Gertrude de Henningsen, contingently might have been Lord Kitchener's aunt.

The impressions are really the essential part of the book. The opinions are the author's own. But we see the background in which they are formed, the facts which support them, the reasons for holding them, and we find them convincing. General politics, social conditions, education, morality, the colour question, etc., all are reviewed. He praises what he thinks is worthy of praise and he is not afraid to condemn what he thinks is wrong, whether in the present or in the past. He left Africa 'depressed but not un-Christianly despondent.'

His message to English Catholics is this: Native Africa needs more priests, more brothers, more nuns. It needs laymen—men and women, who can do things. Catholic lay-doctors, school teachers, nurses, right down to drain designers.

C.N.L.

ART

PARK. By John Gray. (Sheed & Ward; 30/-.)

Those acquainted with the more recent of Canon John Gray's poems will come to his latest work prepared for its