

Blackfriars

vism. As a corrective to Father Williamson's summary the reader will find more useful knowledge in *Italy and Fascismo*, the work of an Italian Priest—Don Luigi Sturzo. J.C.

DEUTSCHE MYSTIKERTEXTE DES MITTELALTERS. Zusammengesammelt und bearbeitet von Dr. phil. Joseph Quint, Privatdozent an der Universität Bonn. Pages, 63. (Peter Hanstein, Bonn; Marks 2.80.)

The first number of a collection of texts illustrating the medieval German mystics. This fascicule contains extracts from Mechtild of Magdeburg's *Flowing Light of the Godhead*, one of the *Visions* of the heretical Flemish mystic, Hadewych of Brussels, and extracts from the sermons of Meister Eckhart. The purpose of the collection is to provide scholars with the most authentic texts possible, and the extracts are therefore given in the oldest available form, whether German or Flemish, with critical notes. If the student has hitherto been content to read these mystics in the various Latin or other versions, it is an undoubted advantage to him to have the *ipsisima verba* of the mystics. And that is what the editor aims at giving him. J.M.

LITTLE LIVES OF GREAT TERTIARIES. By Marian Nesbitt. With a Preface by F. Anselm Keane, O.F.M. (Burns, Oates and Washbourne, Ltd.; 2/6.)

Who can say, after reading these popular sketches, that the development of holiness demands special circumstances? For kings and comb-makers, hermits and housewives, parish priests and penitents, the broad and simple Rule of the Franciscan Third Order has proved a school of heroic perfection. But it should be noted that they took seriously their vocation as tertiaries. They did not expect to go on being just like anybody else after they had joined the Order, but were conspicuously and uncompromisingly not of the world in which they lived, and this, none the less, without shirking any of the duties of their state.

It is a pity the punctuation and construction of sentences in this book is not more careful. And though we do not regret the author's intention to avoid 'copious references to learned authorities,' some mention of fuller existing biographies—at least any in English—would have been useful to those who may well be inspired by the 'Little Lives' to wish for closer acquaintance with the 'Great Tertiaries.' M.B.