

BLACKFRIARS

ical and theological foundations of our religion. As the story progresses, the various points of Catholic belief and practice gradually emerge, difficulties and doubts are dealt with, and excellent practical instruction is imparted, and all in so natural a way as to seem almost casual, certainly as to seem integral parts of the story that is being told.

We cannot in a short review do full justice to this admirable book, which was written for children by a specialist in the art of writing for children, but will be read with real interest as well as real profit by grown-ups, too. It is tastefully produced and lavishly illustrated; it will make an ideal school prize.

HILARY J. CARPENTER, O.P.

THE INIQUITOUS CONTRACT. By J. L. Benvenisti. (Burns, Oates; 5/-.)

In an attractively written book of just over a hundred pages Mr. Benvenisti has set out his thesis that it is in a false and pagan conception of ownership rather than in mere exchange mechanism that the main flaw in the contemporary economic system is to be found. The result is a "Shylocracy" in which the whole economic and social process is increasingly vitiated by Usury, a state of affairs is only to be remedied by a properly distributed ownership of the instruments of capital production.

Mr. Benvenisti's book deserves to be read by English Catholics, to whom it is, in the main, addressed: in particular it should be read by those who are inclined to disagree with his contention.

There is a story of a man who had, as they say, read himself into the Church. He took with him on his first visit to the priest full and exact details of his investments, for he had read of the teaching of the Church on Usury. He took it for granted that it would be as necessary to regularize his finances as to set in order his private life. He would certainly have Mr. Benvenisti's sympathy.

It is scarcely necessary to say that it is not essential to agree with everything in Mr. Benvenisti's book before recognizing its very real importance. It is to be hoped that it will enjoy the attention and the circulation which it deserves.

T. CHARLES-EDWARDS.

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BLACKFRIARS, OXFORD, with illustrations by Joseph Pike, (Blackfriars, Oxford; 1/-.)

Some account of the Dominican Priory of the Holy Ghost where, among many other activities, this review is edited. The letter-press tells of its history and purpose, and the really re-

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markable drawings of Mr. Pike have revealed unsuspected wonders even to its inmates. In addition is a hitherto unpublished portrait of Father Bede Jarrett, O.P., the founder both of the priory and of this review. Copies are obtainable for 1/1 post-free from the Newman Book Shop, Pusey Street, Oxford, or direct from the Very Reverend Father Prior, O.P., Blackfriars, Oxford.

X.

WHAT JESUS SAW FROM THE CROSS. From the French of A. D. Sertillanges, O.P. (Burns Oates; 7/6.)

Physically what Jesus could see from the Cross was a low-angled panorama of the City and the Mount of Olives. His dying gaze could rest on the sites and landmarks of some of the greatest scenes of the drama of His life and of the life of His people. The author attempts to revive those scenes, to discover their meaning according to the mind of Christ and the thoughts with which they may now have been present to Him. Scripture commentary, then, but undertaken in sympathy with Christ nailed to the Cross: borrowing His eyes', and trying to capture His mind's vision. The constructive form of the book is cinematic. Yes, and it is a sensational success, and unique and the rest—let the author's name take the place of such advertisement. It needs to be read swiftly several times, apart from the careful study of its detail: otherwise the pattern may be missed of the Maypole gathering to Calvary of the strands of the divine history; and that would be to miss the heart of the book. But the translation is something of a hindrance: not infrequently breaking the back of some fine movement by tactless phrasing, and failing entirely to render the lithe glowing style of the original. However, its faults are unpretentious: a sympathetic reader can overleap them.

R. K.

THE GIFTS OF THE HOLY GHOST IN THE DOMINICAN SAINTS. By A. Gardeil, O.P. Translated by Anselm M. Townsend, O.P. (Coldwell, for Bruce, Milwaukee; 6/6.)

This is the third of a series of American translations of works on Dominican spirituality. It is the earliest and, with the exception of the article in the *Dictionnaire de Théologie catholique*, the longest of the late Père Gardeil's writings on the Gifts. Two chapters of theoretical explanation are followed by thumb-nail sketches of the lives of different Saints of the Order in which activity according to one or other of the seven Gifts has seemed to predominate. The style of the original does not lend itself to translation; this translation is over-literal, at times crudely so, and there are several bad mistakes.

B. O'D.

BLACKFRIARS

OLD NURSE. By Barbara Barclay Carter. (Cape; 7/6.)

DILL RIEMENSCHNEIDER. By Leo Weismantel. (Herder, Freiburg. i.B.; RM. 4.20.)

Two good examples of what is perhaps the only new art form in the literature of our time—the fictional biography. Essential to the mastery of the form is insight into character, a quality which both Miss Carter and Herr Weismantel have. Miss Carter's gift shows itself not so much in her handling of the old nurse, who is the principal character of the book, as in that of the children who are under her care, and of the animals, who glow with strange brightness in these pages. It may be that sympathy with animals is the characteristic virtue of the northern peoples of to-day, but rarely does it find such a full literary expression as in Miss Carter's work.

Dill Riemenschneider shows a quite different sympathy, this time one into the psychology of the mediæval artist craftsman. Not since Hermann Hesse's *Narciss und Goldmund* have we read a book which rings so true or steers so safe a course between the twin whirlpools of Coulton and Chesterton. G. B. S.

JOAN THE SAINT. By Stanislas Fumet, translated by F. J. Sheed. (Sheed & Ward; 2/6.)

This seventy-page study is timely for two reasons: it explains what is left unexplained in Miss Sackville West's fine biography, and it should counteract an inclination to invoke La Pucelle as a patroness of war who would bless such a struggle as that which now ravages Spain. "Her warfare was an active peace," Fumet concludes. But he has neglected to record her words to Gille de Rais when that warrior told her of the slaughter and pillage which her soldiers wrought: "If the deliverance of France requires such words as Sir Knight has spoken, then I had rather that France were not delivered." H. G.

THE WISE THRUSH. By W. Cumming Tait. (Cassell; 7/6.)

A Glasgow novel, "glasses and pints" on empty stomachs, tall grey tenements, the dirty black canal, the lavish powder of theatrical digs, but through it all the study of human character made strong in defeat. Peter Comyn's first song begins almost grudgingly, mounts strongly, ends with his broken marriage, but—*that's the wise thrush; he sings each song twice over*. T. G.

Messrs. Burns, Oates & Washbourne have now brought to completion their plucky undertaking in producing a four-volume English version of THE ROMAN MISSAL (15/- each volume). In reviewing the first volume we regretted what we thought to be a certain lack of imagination in the manner of the translation; but we are truly thankful to publishers, translators and editors for undertaking so valuable and difficult a work which, if not altogether inspiring in its results, is thoroughly efficient and accurate. V. W.

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Messrs. Sheed & Ward have issued a new edition of Fr. Bede Jarrett's *THE SPACE OF LIFE BETWEEN* (3/6). Already praised in our pages for their "sane, fresh outlook," these "Meditations, more especially for Young Men," should be already too well-known and valued by our readers to need further commendation. W.

BOOKS RECEIVED

- ALSATIA (Paris): *Le catholicisme d'un pasteur anglican*, M. H. Lelong O.P. (3 frs.).
- ANGELICUM: (Rome): *Praelectiones scholasticae in Secundam Partem D. Thomae*, Vol. VII *De Fide* (2a. 2ae. i.—xvi.), Petrus Lumberras, O.P. (pp. 200, n.p.).
- BURNS OATES: *A Dialogue of Comfort against Tribulation*, Saint Thomas More, ed. Mgr. P. Hallett (7/6); *The Holy Sacrifice*, Abbot Cabrol, tr. C. M. Anthony (2/6); *The Curtain Rises*, Enid Dinnis (3/6); *Is it all True?*, Aloysius Roche (5/-); *The Forgotten Paraclete*, Mgr. J. R. Maurice Landrieux, tr. E. Leahy, ed. Rev. W. Henry, S.J. (3/6); *On the Love of God*, Saint Bernard, tr. Terence L. Connolly, S.J. (7/6); *Think and Pray*, Joseph McSorley (5/-); *The Stations of the Cross*, C. C. H. Williamson (1/6); *The Roman Breviary*, English Version compiled by the Nuns of Stanbrook, Part III. Summer (15/-).
- CATHOLIC LIBRARY SERVICE: (St. Paul, Minn.): *The Index to American Catholic Pamphlets*, Eugene P. Williging (\$ 1.25).
- DENT: *Work and Property*, Eric Gill, pictures by Denis Tegetmeier (7/6).
- GOLLANCZ: *Report of a Religious Delegation to Spain*, April 1937 (6d.).
- GRAYSON & GRAYSON: *A Colonial Postmaster-General's Reminiscences*, Alan Workman (8/6).
- JOHN STEVENS (Newport, R.I.): *What use is art anyway? Six Broadcasts sponsored by Boston Museum of Fine Arts* (50 cents).
- KOESSEL UND PUSTET (Munich): *Das katholische Schriftum im heutigen England*, Joseph Metzger (RM. 5.80).
- LONGMANS (New York): *Art and Prudence: A Study in Practical Philosophy*, Mortimer J. Adler (\$5.00).
- MACDONALD & EVANS: *Towards a Religious Philosophy*, Prof. W. G. de Burgh (10/-).
- PALADIN PRESS: *Franco means Business*, George Rotvand (2/-).
- REVUE THOMISTE: *Fontes Vita S. Thomæ Aquinatis*, M. H. Laurent, O.P., Fasc. VI: *Documents* (n.p.).
- RUSHWORTH & DREAPER (Liverpool): *Second Book of Organ Interludes for Liturgical Use*, Dom Gregory Murray, O.S.B. (2/6).
- SHEED & WARD: *Joan the Saint*, Stanislas Fumet, tr. F. J. Sheed (2/6); *The Secret of Saint Margaret Mary*, Henri Ghéon, tr. F. J. Sheed (2/6); *Life in Christ*, Julius Tyciac, tr. Basil Wrighton (5/-); *Realization: A Philosophy of Poetry*, Hugh McCarron, S.J. (5/-); *Tradition and Modernism in Politics*, A. J. Penty (5/-); *The Holy Ghost and His Work in Souls*, Edward Leen, C.S.Sp. (7/6).
- WESMAEL-CHARLIER (Namur): *Leçons de Droit naturel, IV: Les droits et devoirs individuels*, Abbé Jacques Leclercq. *Première Partie: Vie, Disposition de soi* (20 B.fr.); *Deuxième Partie: Travail, Propriété* (50 B.fr.).

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