

Book Reviews

STUDIES ON THE EARLY PAPACY. By Dom John Chapman, O.S.B. Cr. 8vo., pp. 238. (Sheed and Ward; 7/6 net.)

It is always a joy to read the expert on any subject, especially when you had hitherto fancied that you knew something of the questions he handles. The master-mind gently, and with the simplicity and ease begotten of long years of study, shows you that you really knew nothing at all! All the papers here given appeared some years ago save the last, that on the Age of Justinian. They are all 'apologetic' or defences of Catholic teaching; but they are judicial, not partisan apologetic. We are allowed to see the human aspect of quarrels, even the weaknesses of the saints who waged them; while behind the scenes, as it were, there is always the over-ruling guidance of God who uses men according to their individual natures, their imperfections as well as their perfections, in order to bring His Truth into the light. It would be difficult to single out any of the papers, though we well remember the impression left on us some years ago when that on St. Chrysostom and St. Peter first appeared. The first two in this series, on the Growth of Patriarchates and on St. Cyprian, suffer, if we may say so, by undue compression, with a resulting obscurity, at any rate for the non-expert. But the others, especially those on St. Jerome, Pelagianism, and Apiarius, are models of clear thinking and careful expression. May we whisper it? Has the well run dry? Is there no more whence came these most helpful articles?

H.P.

FATHER FRANCIS TARIN, S.J. By Father Jean Dissard, S.J. Translated by Katherine Henvey. (Sheed and Ward; 3/6 net.)

'The sub-title of this book, "Life and Work of a Country Missioner in Modern Spain," may not suggest,' so the publishers tell us, 'more than the outline of one of a hundred lives . . . there is little now that can prevent [this] from spreading as far as the names of the Curé d'Ars, Père Gin hac, Father William Doyle, and carrying a like power of inspiration.' This is high praise, not apparently undeserved, and we think the reader will agree that author, translator, and publisher alike have laid on us a debt of gratitude in making known in England this heroic and devoted priest, who died in Seville in 1910, and whose Cause was there opened in 1924. But here we are compelled to pause. Father Dissard indeed

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tells us frankly in the foreword that he has drawn on *Apuntes Biograficos del Padre Tarin*, Madrid, 1921, for his work, and *Apuntes biograficos*, 'biographical jottings,' it in a great measure remains. Possibly Father Dissard has written in French, and so the usual thanklessness of the translator's task could not be expected to gain in the third remove. Yet such is the fascination of Father Tarin's saintly figure that interest never flags throughout the book, slips, misprints, unfamiliar words, notwithstanding.

J.I.-B.

CINDERELLA. By the Wilfrid Ward Family. (Sheed & Ward; 1/6 net.)

It is pleasant and not new to act home-made plays in the holidays. It is much jollier, though, to do as the Wilfred Ward family have done. They have dramatised a well-known story by threading together strings of quotations, parodies, and adaptations, contributed by all the members of the family and drawn from the works of Shakespeare, Sheridan, Chesterton, and 'a nameless multitude.' The result is excellent: it must please the most disinterested grown-up audience, and delight the children. *Cinderella* is the first of a 'Children's Theatre' series, which will be warmly welcomed, and the book must be sought, first as a charming play to act, and secondly as a first-rate model for private efforts.

R.R.

HOLY NIGHT. A Mystery Play by Gregorio Martinez Sierra, translated by Philip Hereford. (Sheed and Ward, 5/-).

This is a Nativity play, emotion guaranteed by every device of stage direction and arrangement, though not always assisted by the translator, e.g. in such a sentence as 'Where is there a dungeon in which to immure myself' from Madalena, a harlot. The original has been improved by the substitution of Old English carols and Latin hymns where music only had been indicated. Wood engravings, by Gabriel Pippet, adorn several pages. He has treated Our Lady and the Angels formally and, unfortunately, failed to give them life; the other characters and scenes he has naturalized, and succeeded. The formal and the realistic do not 'mix' well in the same picture. The play could not be acted by peasants, nor read by the poor, but, in a modern theatre during the Christmas season would be popular among the middle classes, otherwise it is Catholic and the publishers should not suffer loss.

H.D.C.F.