

ST FRANCIS DE SALES IN HIS LETTERS. Edited by the Sisters of the Visitation. (Sands; 9s. 6d.)

This is a revised edition of a valuable little book that appeared in 1933. The extracts from the letters are full of the kindly wisdom of the saint and many will be glad to find Dom Cuthbert Butler's excellent Introduction which places the letters in the wider context of the theology of the mystical life.



## EXTRACTS

### Rapid growth of the Petits Freres and Petites Soeurs de Jésus

THE latest issue of the *Bulletin Fraternité Charles de Foucauld* contains some interesting notes on the quite phenomenal growth of these two Congregations in the past eighteen months. The Petits Frères have opened more fraternities in France. They continue their quiet apostolate in Morocco and Algeria, and have now penetrated into the heart of the French province of Cameroon. Another foundation has been made at Beni, in Belgian Congo. In South America fraternities have been formed at Santiago and Talca in Chile; another in Brazil, and yet another at Aréquipa in Peru. The Little Brothers have established themselves in the Far East, with a house in Vietnam, and another in Baluchistan, the north-west province of Pakistan. We read that last autumn there were thirty-eight novices testing their vocations at El-Abiodh in Algeria, and that they were made up of ten nationalities. More accommodation had to be found for the ever increasing number of Brothers who study theology under the Dominicans at Saint-Maximin in Provence. One of the most interesting developments is the provision of hermitages on the Ile Saint-Gildas (Côtes-du-Nord), for Brothers who wish to lead the solitary life in emulation of Charles de Foucauld, either for a short or longer period. The maritime fraternity at Concarneau still has several Brothers who earn their living as deck-hands in deep-sea trawlers. At Mar Audicho in Iraq there are a few Brothers living in the midst of Moslem natives, working with them in the fields and among their flocks of sheep.

As to the Little Sisters, it is almost impossible to keep pace with their new foundations, which include fraternities in North and Central Africa, North and South America, Central Asia, the Far East, and all over Europe. They have become so numerous that each regional group

has been placed under the direction of a 'Conseillère', responsible to the Superior-General. A new African novitiate and a fraternity of adoration has been opened at Fez in Morocco. The Little Sisters have penetrated into Uganda, and also into Kenya—right into the Mau Mau country. Eight bishops in the United States have invited the Mother-General to make foundations in their dioceses, but they are held up owing to immigration laws. There has been more success among the Eskimos in Alaska, where three bases are in use by the 'mobile team' of Sisters. A novitiate has been established near Aréquipa in Peru. Another novitiate has been opened at Benares in India, in which there is no colour bar. Back to Europe—here new fraternities have been founded at Copenhagen (Denmark), Helsinki (Finland), Wiener-Neustadt (Russian zone of Austria), and Milan (Italy). A few months ago an Armenian fraternity was opened at Beyrouth. Before long it is hoped to start Chaldean, Maronite and Syrian Sisterhoods. Two fraternities are flourishing in Japan; the one at Tokyo, the other at Yokohama. Several Japanese girls have entered the novitiate. More than a hundred Little Sisters are to assemble at El-Abiodh for a chapter-general this winter, at the close of which it is expected that the following foundations will be made: Kerbubu (French West Africa), Le Cap (North Africa), novitiate among the Indians at Anyanga (Brazil), and a fraternity among the Cayapos Indians (Colombia). Other groups of Little Sisters are waiting orders to leave for Ceylon, Korea, Afghanistan, Iran, and Iraq. Last year thirty Sisters were professed, and all the novitiates appear to be full. An English translation of Père Voillaume's treatise on the spirituality of the disciples of Charles de Foucauld (*Au Coeur des Masses*) is to be published shortly by Burns, Oates and Washbourne, entitled *Seeds of the Desert*. Spanish, German, Portuguese, and Dutch editions are in preparation.

*Jésus-Caritas* (the Bulletin Fraternité Charles de Foucauld) is published every quarter at 'La Source', Dampierre, Seine-et Oise. It is indispensable for those who wish to keep in touch with what is probably the most rapid growth of any religious institute since the foundation of the Friars Minor in the thirteenth century.

The fraternities mentioned in the above list are fairly recent foundations. There are many other groups of the Petits Frères and Petites Soeurs de Jésus scattered around the world, including the fraternity of the Sisters at Pratt's Walk House, Pratt's Walk, Lambeth, S.E.1. Further foundations in Britain are held up meantime because of the insufficient number of British subjects, and consequently the difficulty of obtaining labour permits for aliens.

P.F.A.