

## Book Reviews

as hers shall not inspire the making of books, then why write books at all? Her five hundredth anniversary, which is being kept this year, will provide a welcome opportunity for the telling and re-telling of the marvel of her life and achievement. An insignificant child, a village girl, who knew nothing, 'neither A nor B,' just the *Pater*, the *Ave Maria* and the *Credo*, steps into public life and, with no human influence to recommend her, leads a great army to victory and accomplishes the incredible. Whence came the insight of this ignorant peasant girl? her knowledge of the complex condition of the country? the lay-out of the land; her minute understanding of the apparatus of war, of how to lead men, to manage artillery and all the contrivances of military organisation? How came she to be acquainted with the niceties of strategy, the complexities of politics, the under-currents and intrigues of a complicated society? Whence did she derive the wisdom which enabled her to speak with the technical accuracy of a theologian? There is only one answer—the answer she herself gave and the answer to which all the contributors to this symposium agree—that her voices were from God. Her truly supernatural vocation, her divine mission—there is the secret of her appeal to all manner of men.

This book *For Joan of Arc*, elegantly printed, beautifully illustrated and written by nine French Academicians, makes a good souvenir—a thing to hold for keeps as a reminder and a homage to the Peasant Girl, Soldier, Saint and Martyr who is among the most attractive and romantic figures in the world's story.

THE STORY OF SAINT JOAN : A BOOK FOR CHILDREN. By Clare F. Oddie. (Longmans; 2/6).

Another little book on the same great Saint, written at the request of a child and set forth in the style and idiom that a child will appreciate and take in, is to be praised as a conspicuous success. The fact that it is written for the young explains, perhaps, a certain diffuseness in the narrative and a very engaging, wandering sort of digressiveness. Its simplicity and candour will recommend it to many an unsophisticated adult who disdains not to be considered one of Francis Thompson's 'children of a larger growth.'

THE BESFORD COURT CATHOLIC MENTAL WELFARE HOSPITAL : Eleventh and Twelfth Annual Reports, 1928—1930. By the Resident Manager, the Rt. Rev. Mgr. Newsome.

The wonderful annual Reports of Mgr. Newsome always make me regret I have never had the opportunity of visiting Besford,