

lightening. In each psalm, or part of a psalm, he finds material for meditations upon the whole of the priestly life. They are full of holy wisdom, frank, sometimes trenchant, always to the point. If they wander far from the subject-matter of the psalm, that is the price to be paid for such treatment. Perhaps, too, there are one or two Old Wives' saws that might have been omitted and in the next edition we hope the Latin text will be treated more respectfully by the printers.

Naturally in a book of this size, only the Sunday psalms could be treated, but there is enough here to be grateful for. For once, we are happy to say, this is a book that can in no way be recommended to the laity. It is a book by a priest, a wise old priest, written for his brother-priests.

J. D. CRICHTON.

VANISHING HOMESTEADS. By Rev. E. Schmiedler, O.S.B., Ph.D.

THE POPE AND CHRISTIAN CITIZENSHIP. By Rev. F. J. Boland, C.S.C.

DESIGNS FOR SOCIAL ACTION. By Rev. J. M. Hayes, S.T.D.

(N.C.W.C., 1312 Massachusetts Avenue NW, Washington, D.C.;
5 cents each.)

Fr. Schmiedler, leader of the Catholic Rural Life movement in the U.S.A., takes a pessimistic view of the growth of latifundia and of the mechanisation of farms. Apparently the 'corporation' technique is beginning to manifest itself in farming, and it precipitates two interlocking problems: how to preserve the small homestead, and how to keep up the rural population. The author's suggestion of buying machinery by farmers' co-operatives should go a long way to solving the first problem but can scarcely be expected to ameliorate the second.

The second of the pamphlets is a handy compilation of papal dicta on citizenship from Leo XIII to Pius XII. Not least in value is the index of no less than two hundred items. Fr. Hayes provides an interesting survey of such citizenship in action, the methods used by Catholics in the U.S.A. to come to grips with the social problem. It would seem that Dorothy Day's *Catholic Worker* is outside the pale because it is not mentioned.

J.F.

REFLECTIONS OF THE ISLE OF BARRA. By Donald Buchanan. (Sands,
7s. 6d.)

Had the author kept to description of life in Barra as it was sixty years ago and as it is now, this would have been a very good book. In his pages on the island and its people, Dr. Buchanan is refreshingly candid, and free from the poetic prose and sticky sentiment which mark so many books about the Highlands. He does not minimise, for example, the demoralising effect which the 'dole'

has had on the men of Barra; and points out 'the truth that the majority of parishes in the Highlands and Islands are sinecures' in which there is little but very routine activity. Several readable chapters, especially those on industries, health and education, are marked by this fidelity to facts and raise in an intelligent way problems of more than local interest and importance.

Unfortunately there are long sections in which the author digresses into history, philosophy, and political theory. These are heavy, often wearily involved, based apparently on inadequate knowledge of the things discussed; and when they are apologetic often missing the point, as when the charge that Barra's religion is superstitious is met by proving that Celtic paganism has scarcely touched it. Not even the most rabid partisans have tried to connect Celtic paganism and the Mass; and it is the Mass they mean chiefly when they talk of the paganism of Barra. Several other things, such as a reference to Finn leaning on *her* elbow, to 'reliable records of the religious history of the Columban era from the accounts given by Adamnan,' and some astonishing simplifications of Scottish politics, all make one wonder whether the author may not have lost touch with Scottish things outside Barra. A most inadequate chapter on poetry and literature is fortunately lost on the English reader, as the thesis is supported by numerous untranslated quotations in Gaelic. The book is interesting, however, even in its faults, which are typical of a considerable section of educated Highlanders at the present time.

A.R.

THE DOMINICANS. By the Rev. C. J. Cummings, O.P. (Austrian C.T.S.)

A pamphlet calculated to win vocations to the Order whose past glories and strength, present ideals and commitments alike cry out for labourers to the harvest. A veritable guide and gazetteer to the Order down the ages and through the world, surely useful as an introduction, in spite of the defects (over-statement, some inaccuracy, occasional sectarianism) natural to its genre.

C.R.

A PRIMER OF MORAL PHILOSOPHY. By Henry Keane, S.J. (Catholic Social Guild, Oxford. 1s. 6d.)

The two previous editions of Fr. Keane's well-known Primer being exhausted, the Catholic Social Guild have decided to bring out a third edition. They here offer us Parts I. and II. of the original work. We understand that the remainder, which deals with more specifically sociological questions, is to follow, after it has been revised and expanded.

A.L'E.