

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.

NOTICES

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-