

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