

P. B. M. Lenzetti, O.P., *Nuovi documenti per il culto di Innocenzo V*, shows the veneration given to the Dominican Pope before 1534, supplying photographs of some of the evidence.

I. M. Vosté, O.P. contributes *Beatus Petrus de Tarantasia epistolarum S. Pauli interpres*, which is admirably planned and the schemes he gives are very clearly arranged.

The Historical Institute is to be warmly congratulated on this important collection of studies and on the pleasant format of the volume.

ANDREW VELLA, O.P.

BIBLIOGRAPHY OF ENGLISH TRANSLATIONS FROM MEDIEVAL SOURCES.

By Clarissa P. Farrar and Austin P. Evans. (Columbia University Press, Cumberlege; 50s.)

We are told in the Preface that this bibliography 'has been compiled in response to a demand for a reasonably accurate guide to existing translations from medieval sources. Questions have frequently arisen whether a given work has ever been translated, whether an existing translation is adequate, or what relationship several translations of a given work bear to each other. To such questions no answer has been readily available. The present work is designed in some measure to supply that lack'.

If approached through the Index with complete disregard for the alphabetical arrangement of the body of the book, it will be found useful, especially as a guide to the great mass of translation which has appeared in America. It is convenient, too, as an index to the amount of translation from Irish, Arabic, and other sources, which has been published in learned periodicals.

It is curious in some ways. The term 'medieval' is oddly understood. According to the dust-cover, the book is a guide to work produced between the time of Constantine the Great and the year 1500. In fact it proves inclusive of Christian literature from the 1st century! This liberal view of the *terminus a quo* contrasts strongly with an excessive strictness at the other end. So carefully is the limit observed there that such a work as Major's *History of Greater Britain* is excluded, for although medieval in matter and style it was published in 1521; and there are scruples about *Everyman* because the extant texts are early 16th century! The timidity about accepting as medieval anything later than 1500 supports the thesis, suggested by other characteristics of the book, that it has been compiled too much from library catalogues, without enough reference to specialists in various subjects. No one versed in Celtic literature, for example, would have passed the Welsh section without noting the omission of David ap Gwilym, who was translated by Arthur James Jones in 1834, not to mention translations of selections. Similarly a Dominican would have pointed out, among other things, the omission of St Vincent Ferrer, and the shortcomings of the references to Gerard de Frachet's *Vitae Fratrum*, to the *Vices and Virtues*, and to Jordan of Saxony.

A serious fault is the failure to point out the need of using certain translations with caution. As the bibliography has in mind many readers with no knowledge of any tongue but modern English, notes on the adequacy of versions are particularly necessary. Such notes are frequently not given, for example in the numerous references to the *English Church Historians* series, which needs to be controlled carefully.

There is a fantastic muddle in two entries, where Miss Helen Waddell's *Wandering Scholars* and *Medieval Latin Lyrics* are so confused as to make one wonder whether the compiler wrote from memory. There is no mention of translations of Plotinus and Porphyry, although translations of Iamblichus and Proclus are noted. If 'medieval' is to be stretched to include them and Clement of Rome and Ignatius of Antioch, surely Plotinus is not to be ignored. An edition of the *Heimskringla*, the most most accessible to British readers, has been overlooked. Wentworth Huyshe's translation of Adamnan is now published by Routledge.

Cross references should be increased generally. The index would be improved by the inclusion of the usual English forms of Norse names. At present the reader has to recognize St Magnus in *Magnus saga helga eyjarls*. However, the book was issued in expectation of much criticism of detail, and no doubt a later edition will see considerable improvement.

ANTHONY ROSS, O.P.

LITERATURE

JOHNSON AGONISTES, AND OTHER ESSAYS. By Bertrand H. Bronson. (Cambridge University Press; 8s. 6d.)

This is a learned book and makes hard reading. The three essays of which it is composed first appeared under the auspices of the University of California. They are full of scholarship, research, and thoughtful appraisal. Doubtless they will find an appreciative public, but that public would be larger were the author's style simpler and more persuasive, his reasoning crystal-clear, and his touch lighter. For there is little sign of that blend of playful fancy and delicate humour, that freedom from cramping academic bonds, which ensure for the literary essay a measure of immortality. All the same, there is here a valuable contribution to Johnsonian criticism and we are grateful for it.

The first essay (which gives title to the book) is a psychological study of Johnson, viewed from a particular angle. He is seen as a dual personality, a kind of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde as it were, full of apparent contradictions, a born, deep-dyed, whole-hearted Tory, yet a man who swims instinctively against the current, and temperamentally is always in revolt. And this thesis the author ably works out in detail.

The third (and last) essay is a meticulous and careful analysis of Johnson's *Irene*. Very few people have ever had the courage to tackle in this way that ill-fated play, or even to read it through.