

questions: What is the right life? Who is the good man?" As such it can be said to be successful; at least it is a very readable book, and one which ought to be effective in stimulating the mentally sluggish, whether believers or unbelievers, to serious thought about man's nature and ultimate destiny. The first three chapters are especially good in this respect. For the rest the book seems to be a record of the author's own experience in trying to live the Christian life under modern conditions. He has seen the Light of Christ and has tried to follow it, but he is no visionary. "The Christian ideal is growth to manhood, not progress to any Utopia." The immediate aim of the Christian is the following of Christ, not world reform. "I find He (Christ) does not ask me to set the world to rights. That is a task for God." We may accept Mr. Horwood's testimony as that of a sincere and wholehearted follower of our Lord, but we imagine that the modern world will need a more objective criterion of what Christianity implies and what it does not. Unfortunately Mr. Horwood is extremely vague as to the doctrinal content of Christianity. We find no definite statement as to the Divinity of our Lord, for instance; though it is possible that two phrases (pp. 115 and 123) might imply that it was taken for granted. Then there is the statement on p. 25, regarding our Lord's declaration: "Except you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, ye have no life in you." The author comments: "If this be taken as literally true, there is an end of Christianity." We cannot see what Mr. Horwood means by "Christianity" in this context, but surely, if there was one saying which Christ insisted on being taken at its face value it was this.

EGBERT COLE, O.P.

A SHORT BREVIARY. Edited by the Monks of St. John's Abbey.
(The Liturgical Press, U.S.A.: obtainable from Burns
Oates.)

We may well ask: "What is a Breviary?" The Breviary is already abbreviated: a briefer Breviary, is it still a Breviary? If the word means an official book of the official prayer of the Church, then "A Short Breviary" is not an accurate title. The volume contains in English, well printed in bold type, an "Office" based on the Roman Breviary, but reduced to the length of the Little Office. We can hardly therefore endorse the words of the publishers that it "represents the most important advance in active participation since the printing of popular missals," since this is not in the same sense a popular breviary, and the use of it will not be official participation in the official prayer of the Church. And yet it is a most valuable "prayer-book," with the tremendous advantage that it follows the movement of the liturgical year, and the prayers, psalms, lessons,

etc., all come from the pertinent parts of the Divine Office. It is therefore a liturgical prayer book of the greatest value and we may hope that one day such a book will be incorporated in the Divine Office for the sake of the laity who wish to participate.
C.P.

THE PATRIARCH OF PEACE. A play of St. Benedict in one act. By Dom Romanus Rios. (St. Augustine's Abbey, Ramsgate; 1s.)

Dom Romanus has written an interesting play based on the episode of Totila's visit to St. Benedict at Monte Cassino. "It was the meeting of two races at the very crossroads of a new era," and the play, while free from rhetoric, enables us to see its deep significance. The Ramsgate Abbey Press has made an excellent job of the printing.
E.V.

FOR THE SMALLEST PERSON. By Cecily Hallack. Illustrated by Ida Bohatta-Morpurgo. (Burns Oates; 2s. 6d.)

This is surely a reprint of a pre-war favourite, a fact which no doubt contributes towards making the illustrations a delight to the eye as the wording of the text is to the heart. Author and Artist have happily compiled a manual of the Spiritual Life brought within the capacity of the Smallest Person at which many a grown-up will look for long before giving it away.

HAVING A GUARDIAN ANGEL. (Burns Oates; 2s. 6d.)

This is also due to the same happy inspiration of Cecily Hallack and Ida Bohatta-Morpurgo and is identical in production with "For the Smallest Person." The only comment one can make is that some may find it even more attractive than its companion.

MY ROSARY BOOK. (Macmillan; 2s.)

The aim of this little book is to teach children to say the Rosary with attention and profit. A page of suggestive thoughts accompanies each of the illustrations which are the work of a Dominican Sister. War-time restrictions hardly do justice to an attractive little book which should become the Vade Mecum of many a small Catholic besides the pupils of the Convent School at Brewood to whom it is dedicated.
M.D.

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