

Blackfriars

a good bedside book. Not the least admirably wise thoughts in the book are the italicised commentaries, *videlicet*,

*'Go lean your elbows on the Knees of God,
Not on your own; on hope, not hopelessness.'*

I should like to make my recommendation unmistakable and emphatic, lest the casual reader should miss the concentrated wisdom of this uncommon 'commonplace book.'

K.

CONSUMMATA (MARIE-ANTOINETTE DE GENSER), HER LIFE AND LETTERS. Translated from the French of Raoul Plus, S.J., by George Baker. (Burns, Oates & Washbourne, Ltd.; 7/6.)

Mr. George Baker has been happily inspired to make known to English-speaking readers one of the most charming of modern spiritual personalities.

All who have met 'Consummata' in Père Plus' French Life of her and in her own spiritual notes and letters, are convinced that she has a work to do for souls. She may well prove an inspiration and example to girls especially of her own class. Few girls to-day are satisfied to live at home and fulfil with tact and charm the rôle of 'elder sister,' a rôle which may have almost as potent an influence on the younger children as that of a mother. Consummata devoted her whole-hearted energy and many intellectual gifts to this task, especially when, for reasons of health, she was obliged to renounce finally a call to Carmel. Yet it was by her fidelity to these home duties and by the giving up of her own plans that she developed that passionate love for God's will which so rapidly consumed her, and brought her to a state of union with Him seldom attained even by contemplatives in the cloister. In such seemingly contradictory ways does God work out His Will, and the soul's most cherished and apparently frustrated ideals.

To the present reviewer the translation is unfortunately inadequate both in conveying Consummata's charm and personality. Many passages are clumsy and awkward, even inexact in this English rendering, while the style of writing chosen by Mr. Baker does not accord with his subject and will appeal, we think, only to a few. To hear that 'Jesus is the very stuff of our souls' will surely arouse no one's devotion! Consummata's actual words are 'Jésus! Il est tellement le tout de nos âmes!'

M.M.