

BLACKFRIARS

Stella are all at conflict so long as they remain spiritually in splendid isolation; only charity at length takes them out of themselves, their selves as functions, into their selves as essences or persons. There always remains the chiaroscuro of true metaphysical vision, instead of the selfish and *simpliste* formulas with which we bolster up our ignorance. *Devant la vivant qui péröre et gesticule, si nous savions évoquer le gisant de demain!*

JOHN DURKAN.

BOOKS FOR CHILDREN

JANE AND TOMMY TOMKINS. By Vera Barclay. (Herbert Jenkins; 2s. 6d.)

HALF-DECK OF THE "BRADSTOCK." By Douglas V. Duff. (Burns, Oates; 3s. 6d.)

THE HIDDEN VALLEY. By Eileen Marsh. (Burns Oates; 3s. 6d.)

THE DRAGON AND THE MOSQUITO. By R. J. McGregor. (Burns Oates; 2s. 6d.)

TOB AND HIS DOG. By Guy Rawlence. (Burns Oates; 3s. 6d.)

The new adventures of the very human and wholly delightful Jane will give great satisfaction to the many "Young People and their Elders" who have already made her joyful acquaintance in earlier volumes. It is, indeed, probably now unnecessary to remark upon Miss Barclay's intimate and unerring appreciation of the characteristics of boys and girls which her wide experience (especially amongst guides and scouts) has given her, and even less necessary to call attention to her mastery of the technique of writing for the younger generation. But she gives notable proof of these qualities in this fresh chronicle of Jane aided and abetted by Tommy, a typical Cockney youngster with whom she scraped a characteristic friendship during a visit to the coast as companion to her neurasthenic uncle, Bungo. Their adventures are numerous and amusing and even exciting, and yet there is nothing forced or artificial about them or the actors. That is probably the main reason why *you* will enjoy this book, as well as the young ones to whom you will want to give it for a Christmas present.

For adventure of the more vigorous or hectic type, Messrs. Burns Oates have added two excellent stories of that genre to their already long list of splendid Books for Young People. The first is a real "boy's yarn" packed with action and thrills in which the leading part is played by three cadets in the merchant service who occupy the *Half-Deck of the "Bradstock"*—or would occupy it if the unbroken chain of adventures allowed!

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The story is sufficiently up-to-date to include incidents arising from the Spanish civil war and the Palestine disturbances; but it has a cleverly interwoven background of history and topography, especially about the Holy Land. The second of these books is of a different type; it has heroines instead of heroes, but very modern ones who pilot an aeroplane to Central Africa as the opening phase of a casual vacation. Accompanied by the father of one of the girls, who is a Professor of Classics, and his housekeeper, they find themselves landing eventually in a mountain-bound valley inhabited by a lost region of ancient Rome. All things considered the fantasy is remarkably credible and well sustained; only those who have used Latin as a *lingua franca* would query the ease with which the Professor, and even the accomplished young ladies, understood and were understood by the colonists. But it is a good tale, well told.

Fantasies of a different sort are offered in the remaining two volumes. *The Dragon and the Mosquito* is the first of five short stories; it is an amusing tale with a moral, while the rest are faintly reminiscent of the *Just-So Stories*, though none the less distinctively original and the line-drawing illustrations (far too few) are notably good. But probably *Tob and his Dog*, with their adventures in an elusively fairy-tale atmosphere, will appeal still more, especially to the young ones approaching the dignity of double figures, although it must be said that the illustrations here are not at all as good.

HILARY J. CARPENTER, O.P.

NOTICES

MOTHER MARGARET HALLAHAN, O.P. By Fr. Walter Gumbley, O.P., F.R.Hist.S. (S. Walker, Hinckley, Leics.; 1s. 6d.)

The learned author has excellently contrived to produce a brief and simple yet wholly scholarly record of the life and work of one, already admired by many, whom her devoted friend and spiritual father, Archbishop Ullathorne, described as "the most remarkable religious woman of her age," whose enterprise and courage resulted in what Cardinal Manning judged to be "the greatest work in England for the Church and Religion of anyone he had ever known." As Father Gumbley himself protests, this is in no sense an attempt to supplant the great life of Mother Margaret written and published within a year of her death by Mother Drane. Indeed it was he who edited the new edition of that monumental biography only a few years ago. But he has now had the advantage of access to some original documents discovered since that time, principally dealing with Mother