

## BLACKFRIARS

WHISTLES OF SILVER AND OTHER STORIES. By Helen Parry Eden.  
(The Bruce Publishing Company ; 2 dollars.)

Helen Parry Eden needs no introduction to readers of BLACKFRIARS and her stories and poems need no commendation. Those who made her acquaintance in these pages will be able to improve their knowledge and recapture their delight in this book of collected stories and poems wherein are gathered most of her more recent work. Her prose has a finished quality of excellence not commonly met with in modern writers. Whatever scrupulous care and exquisite taste may have gone to its making the result bears no mark of the fastidious or the finicky ; there are no irritating mannerisms and the story moves, as a story should, naturally spontaneously and with masterly ease like a cool, clear river. It is great writing which will outlive the work of others whom the fashion of the moment gives a temporary eminence. Her poetry has a glorious perfection. *Carol of a Hard Christmas* and *There Blew a Horn in Bethlehem* are up to the highest standard of English carols (and what a high standard that is !) : they are eminently singable. Who will match them with worthy tunes?

In the stories themselves wit, humour, pathos and devotion are blended in their natural and supernatural proportions. Impish fun is poked at ecclesiastics and theologians in the true spirit of absolute devotion to Theology and complete love of the Church. Baron Corvo's *Tales told to Toto* have been suggested as a companion volume; but Mrs. Eden's stories are better, wittier, minus the scurrility, have less sting in them, more humanity and humour and are easier and more delightful reading.

*A Dialogue of Devotion* is a marvellous example of the inspiration a poet can draw from the *Summa* of St. Thomas. The illustrations by Denis Eden are of a piece with the excellence of the book, which is *so* good that one is left wondering at its being published in America before England. Catholic publishers on this side of the Atlantic should have a more alert eye for a good thing.

B.D.

## CINEMA

IT would seem that French film directors are men of admirable courage, for they are bold enough to make films about things that matter. Of the last two French films that I have seen, the first dealt with slavery and the second with children. The main advantage of dealing with the really important things is that one can afford to be serious, if not solemn about them ; whereas no one can be serious about infidelity without becoming morbid,