

## Book Reviews

four million Catholics *scattered all over the world,*' these remarkable statements are due to a misunderstanding of the original. We could cite several more such mistakes. A curious error of another sort is the novel version 'reap with joy *wheat* I had sown in tears,' which we should have taken for a misprint, if it did not occur twice (pp. 38 and 66). Yet, after all, we should like to affirm our conviction that this book, in spite of such blemishes, is an admirable one, and that the patient reader will both enjoy it and get great good from its perusal.

J.M.

A SCOTTISH MONTESSORI SCHOOL. By a Sister of Notre Dame. (London: Sands & Co.; 5/-.)

Whatever one's attitude towards the Montessori method (and it is undoubtedly open to objection), no one could fail to be interested in the particular practical application of it described in this noteworthy volume. This Scottish Montessori School gives at least a pragmatic sanction to the Montessori method. The book itself is admirably written and arranged, and is generously illustrated with remarkably good photographs. The various chapters cover all the subjects of a normal syllabus and show the basic principles of the Method as applied to the various subjects in turn.

There are some interesting preliminary notes, amongst them one on 'discipline' (p. 6) which may serve to lessen the apprehensions of those who feel that the Montessori 'liberty' in the pupil must almost inevitably develop into 'licence.'

H.J.C.

HIGHWAYS AND BYWAYS IN GLOUCESTERSHIRE. By Edward Hutton. Illustrated by Hugh Thomson. (Macmillan; 7/6.)

This book is a notable addition to an already delightful series by an author who has previously written of Wiltshire and Somerset. How well he knows this part of the country! Those who already know Gloucestershire will revel in the wealth of descriptive and historical detail, and in that sense of seeing again the places and things they have loved which the author conveys. To those who do not know them, an irresistible desire to visit these places must be the result of their reading. Catholics will be grateful for the tone in which the book is written; so much, especially in church and monastic architecture, strikes in the author a note of regret and sorrow for the beautiful things destroyed in the sixteenth century; for instance, his lament over the now deserted Abbey of Hayles. What can be

## *Blackfriars*

more delightful to read than a fascinating book, such as this is, about our English countryside? A word must be said in praise of the exquisite illustrations.

F.M.

**WHENCE THE BLACK IRISH OF JAMAICA?** By Joseph J. Williams, S.J. (New York: The Dial Press, 1932; \$2.)

The object of this slim volume of some seventy pages is to account for the well-known fact that in Jamaica large numbers of the negroes bear distinctively Irish names. The author brushes aside the usually accepted explanation of this; namely, that the slaves of former times were largely called by the family names of their masters. He holds that these 'Black Irish,' as he calls them, are the descendants of the white slaves deported from Ireland and elsewhere by Cromwell and others. To our mind his thesis is unconvincing. He makes no attempt to get over the obvious difficulty that those about whom he writes are mostly negroes of the most full-blooded African type and without the features or complexion which indicate an infusion of Caucasian blood. And what he says does not at all square with a phenomenon familiar to every one who has lived in that other West Indian island, Barbados. In Barbados is a distinct and very prominent race of people (there is a colony of them in Grenada too) popularly called 'Red-Legs.' They are mostly the lowest kind of agricultural labourers, all absolutely white, and with European features, but diseased-looking from constant inter-marriage. And men are accustomed to point to them as the lineal descendants of the Cromwellian deportees. It is incredible that the Red-legs of Barbados and the so-called Black Irish of Jamaica should be of the same stock—Nature does not work like that.

F.R.B.

**THE CATHOLIC LINEAGE.** By the Rev. L. Rumble, M.Sc. (Burns, Oates & Washbourne, Ltd.; 3/6.)

This book contains twenty historical sketches of saints, from every age and every class of the Church. The facts are enshrined in a picturesque framework. Each saint as it were walks out of the Family Album of the Church to talk to the inquiring priest. It is a pity that controversy of the old-fashioned kind should have been allowed to obtrude. But once on his way the author shows a lively and vivid style.

C.C-E.