

Blackfriars

of his followers. The paper and printing leave little to be desired, but there is no Index. F.M.

CATHERINE DE GARDEVILLE. By Bertha Radford Sutton. (Burns, Oates & Washbourne; 7/6 net.)

Mrs. Bertha Radford Sutton has written some very pleasant short stories. Her choice of a larger canvas, in *Catherine de Gardeville*, is not a happy one. Her main characters are too refined—in the snobbish sense rather than the literary—to come to life, when they are not, as in the case of Catherine's mother, too impossibly ill-mannered. Moreover, American spelling, errors in punctuation and spacing of paragraphs, and a vague use of words put up such a barricade between reader and read that a mental discomfort almost approaching indigestion—an 'un-sereneness,' to use Mrs. Sutton's own term—is the result. All this is regrettable, for Catholic novelists are rare. If Mrs. Sutton had approached her story simply and had written with an effort at clarity rather than at brilliance, her interesting theme would have stood a much greater chance of success.

A.C.

SACRED SIGNS. By Romano Guardini. Translated by G. C. H. Pollen, S.J. (Sheed & Ward; 2/6.)

When Francis Thompson said that ritual was poetry addressed to the eye, he gave us an apt description, but not an exhaustive definition. The Liturgy is not merely something we behold as spectators: it is a life; it is something we do; it is 'a whole world of sacred and hidden events which have taken visible shape—it is sacramental.' It is even something more than acted poetry and supreme drama: it is living worship—the dedication of the whole man (body, soul, heart, mind and sense) to the Creator of all things. *Cor meum et caro mea exultaverunt in Deum vivum.*

The object of this great little book is not liturgical teaching, but *liturgical education*. The Sign of the Cross, Hands, Kneeling, Walking, Genuflecting, Striking the Breast are all shown to be instruments of unspoken prayer. Holy Water, Candles, Ashes, Incense, Bells, Bread and Wine have their glorious part in man's effort to lift up his heart to God. The only effectual education is that which teaches the young to do and to make. The Church's wisdom as an educator is made clear in this book. We hope that Catholics will lay hold of it and educate themselves and their children by means of it. B.