

of true science, but its history cannot plead ignorance of what is meant by *facts*.

There are various other views or expressions to be found in this pamphlet with which one could not agree, but they are either comparatively unimportant or irrelevant to the main issue. Concerning this main issue one may perhaps again express the deep satisfaction of finding here a statement that is so largely in unison with our own doctrine.

RICHARD KEHOE, O.P.

## NOTICES

REALISME THOMISTE ET CRITIQUE DE LA CONNAISSANCE. By Etienne Gilson. (J. Vrin, Paris; 20 frs.)

'Au fond, peu de réalistes critiques s'engagent vraiment dans la critique; c'est pourquoi ils jugent si faciles d'en sortir.' In his first six chapters M. Gilson dissects with great care and courtesy some attempts to construct a 'critical realism,' and not only finds them wanting, but inevitably doomed to failure. For the very words are either tautological or contradictory. 'Critical' in fact means either 'philosophical,' and is a wholly superfluous epithet, or brings with it idealist presuppositions which must vitiate the realism it is made to qualify. The last two chapters, *Le Sujet Connaissant* and *L'Appréhension de l'Existence* give a realist account of realism, by contrast to those which are at heart, albeit unwillingly, idealist. They emphasize the union of intellect and senses in the *suppositum*, and the formal, actual, character of existence. The whole book provides a magnificent statement of the reality of the object of Metaphysics, and one incidental, several times recurring theme which one would expect from M. Gilson is the value of the history of philosophy.

I.T.

TWO ENGLISH CARMELITES. By Sister Anne Hardman, S.N.D. (Burns, Oates; 7s. 6d.)

This book is a further contribution by Sister Anne Hardman, S.N.D., not only to the history of the English Carmelites, but to English Church History. Much has already been done to illustrate the lives of hundreds of English men and women who served God in a foreign cloister, because one at home was for-

bidden them. This actual book deals with the lives of two 'uncanonized saints,' Mother Mary Margaret of the Angels (Margaret Wake), 1617 to 1678, and Mother Mary Xaveria of the Angels (Catherine Burton), 1668 to 1714.

Both lives are based on original MSS. still preserved at the Carmelite nunnery of Lanherne in Cornwall, and that of Mother Xaveria has already been published by the late Father H. J. Coleridge, of the Society of Jesus. This Sister Hardman has modernised, and in addition has taken the opportunity of preparing and publishing the MS. on Mother Wake. This is the explanation why she gives their biographies in inverse chronological order, dealing first with Mother Xaveria.

The historical value of the book is, however, secondary to its great value spiritually, and it is a marked contribution to the English literature of mysticism.

W.G.

**JESUIT THINKERS OF THE RENAISSANCE:** Essays presented to John F. McCormick, S.J., by his students. Edited by Gerard Smith, S.J., Ph.D. (Marquette University Press, Milwaukee; n.p.)

These essays deal with Suarez, Fr. Dominic Bouhours, Molina, Lessius, Mariana and Bellarmine, and there are appended bibliographical notes on Suarez, Molina and Bellarmine. Most of the authors are dealing with special points in their subjects' thought, and all show a real sense of the value of historical setting. Especially successful in this respect is the essay on 'Molina and Human Liberty' by Anton C. Pegis. Professor Pegis is 'concerned with a number of historical causes which led to the formation of Molina's philosophical and theological attitudes,' and does his best to keep clear of subsequent controversies. That total aim, however, might have been even better achieved if he had been content to show Bañes as admittedly misunderstood by Molina, and not also as coloured by the personal view of a cardinal point in the whole dispute, indicated in the words, 'For St. Thomas Aquinas, therefore, the divine causality causes, but does not determine, the acts of free creatures. *That* Bañes did not quite see.'

Fr. Chamberlain's Leonard Lessius is a biographical sketch of no small charm and interest.

I.T.

RELIGIONS OF UNBELIEF. By André Bremond, S.J. (Religion and Culture Series; Coldwell; 7s. 6d.)

An examination of the teachings of some exponents of rationalism. Excellent and readable is the opening chapter, entitled 'Was Greek Thought Rationalistic?'—a useful corrective to a too common assumption. Some of the later ones lack internal continuity and the literary appeal of the adversary. I.T.

A CHRONICLE OF THE CARMELITES IN PERSIA AND THE PAPAL MISSION OF THE SEVENTEENTH AND EIGHTEENTH CENTURIES. Two volumes. (Eyre & Spottiswoode; £2 2s.)

These two volumes, magnificently printed and illustrated, are a monument at once to the zeal and industry of the anonymous 'compiler' and to the selfless and often unavailing labours of the Carmelite Friars in this remote and supremely difficult mission field. While giving *in extenso* a Chronicle of the Carmelite missions in Persia and Mesopotamia, the book supplements it by narratives and commentaries on the general history of Persia, here and there salted and illumined by the learned compiler's subtle knowledge of Persian life and manners.

Interesting side-lights are thrown on the personalities and achievements of the Italian Dominicans who worked in Azerbaijan and in Julfa during the period in review.

The reading of this 'Chronicle' encourages us to hope that its Compiler will yet find time to bring the history of the Persian Mission nearer to our own day. C.R.

A CATHOLIC'S GUIDE TO SOCIAL AND POLITICAL ACTION. By C. C. Clump, S.J. (Catholic Social Guild, Oxford; 6d.)

A social catechism which is also a valuable codification of the social doctrines of the Encyclicals and other Papal pronouncements. The questions are Fr. Clump's, the answers are all in the very words of the Popes. An admirable idea, admirably carried into execution. V.W.

THE CINEMA MYSTERY. By Major J. T. Gorman. (Burns, Oates; 3s. 6d.)

The setting of this story is in England in the country. Tony Stuart, a boy with photography for a hobby, wanders about the countryside to get shots of birds and animals. He is soon involved in a mystery, being accused of the theft of a valuable

old MS. The deepening mystery is well contrived and cleverly handled, and the story never lags. Tony is a bit of a detective, and with the help of Barney, his delightful sheep dog, and some luck, all ends well.

Animal lovers will find a real pleasure in the descriptions of the badgers and of the Hound Trail.

J.A.Q. DU P.

The Catholic Truth Society has re-issued Fr. Bede Jarrett's meditations on WAR, LOYALTY, DEFENCE, first published as a pamphlet in 1915. They have also issued some timely leaflets. SPIRITUAL FIRST-AID by the Rev. J. J. Bevan instructs laymen on their duty 'in the midst of wounded and dying people' in the absence of a priest, and shows how he should assist them spiritually whether they be Catholics or not. Other leaflets include FIVE SPIRITUAL COMMANDMENTS FOR PROTECTION AGAINST AIR RAIDS and OUR LADY QUEEN OF POLAND. The latter, sold at one penny in aid of the Polish Fund, reproduces Our Lady of Czestochowa and adds a prayer to her for Poland which has been indulged by Cardinal Hinsley.

### BOOKS RECEIVED.

BURNS, OATES AND WASHBOURNE: *Morality and War*, Gerald Vann, O.P. (3s. 6d.); *How to Love Our Lady as St. Thérèse of the Child Jesus Loved Her*, Rev. G. Martin (5s.); *Mrs. Fitzherbert*, Shane Leslie (15s.); *For Democracy*, Ed. by People & Freedom Group, Luigi Sturzo, etc. (8s. 6d.); *Perfection through Patience*, Arranged by a Religious of the Holy Child Jesus (1s.); *The Personality of Christ*, Abbot Anscar Vonier (6s.).

FABER AND FABER: *The Idea of a Christian Society*, T. S. Eliot (5s.).

GEOFFREY BLES: *Church and State*, Don Luigi Sturzo (21s.).

JOHN STEVENS (Rhode Island): *Sacred and Secular in Art and Industry*, Eric Gill (pp. 31, n.p.).

LONGMANS: *Saint Just*, J. B. Morton (15s.); *Our Case—What we are fighting for—and Why*, Christopher Hollis (1s. 6d.); *The Descent of the Dove*, Charles Williams (7s. 6d.).

MARQUETTE UNIVERSITY PRESS: *Saint Augustine: Christian or Neo-Platonist?* Sister Mary Patrica Carvey, R.S.M. (n.p.).

SANDS: *Shepherds of Bethlehem*, Mary Winter Were (6s.).

SHEED AND WARD: *Time's Wall Asunder*, Robert Farren (3s. 6d.); *How Firm a Foundation*, Willis Dwight Nutting (6s.); *European Note-Book*, Bernard Wall (7s. 6d.); *St. Vincent Ferrer*, Henri Ghéon (6s.); *The Sudden Rose*, Blanche Mary Kelly (6s.).