

Book Reviews

LA HIERARCHIE CATHOLIQUE ET LE PROBLEME SOCIAL DEPUIS L'ENCYCLIQUE 'RERUM NOVARUM,' 1781—1913. (Editions Spes : 17 Rue Soufflot, Paris ; 40 fr. ; 1931.)

'Many Catholic industrialists and men of business remain in state of blank and bland ignorance as to the very existence of principles that should guide their daily actions, and are accustomed to accept unquestioned the very questionable maxims upon which a great deal of modern industry and business is day by day conducted It is a sad fact that, nearly forty years after the promulgation of 'Rerum Novarum,' its teachings are still but imperfectly assimilated, even by many of the Catholic clergy, and are not so much as suspected by a very large proportion of the Catholic laity': so writes Mr. Leslie Toke in his Preface to *A Code of Social Principles* (Catholic Social Guild, Oxford, 1931). His words should direct us to *La Hiérarchie Catholique*, which is clear evidence that for the last forty years the Bishops throughout the world have been doing their best to enlighten and stimulate both clergy and laity in this matter of principles. This book is an exhaustive bibliography and index of all responsible utterances on the social question. It is issued by the International Union of Social Studies which was founded by Cardinal Mercier: it has been accorded a certain official sanction by being mentioned in the present Holy Father's recent Encyclical, *Quadragesimo Anno*—Regarding the Catholic view on social problems it provides a guide indispensable to the student.

GALE WARNING. By W. J. Blyton. (Burns, Oates and Washbourne, Ltd ; 7/6.)

This is a first novel stamped on every page with the sincerity that marks all its author's writings. It is a post-war story of modern life, with well drawn characters and some capital descriptive work. We wander in Germany, assist at folk dancing in the Chilterns, visit a night club—the usual dreary place—attend a séance and enjoy ourselves with discussions on everything under the sun; everything that really matters that is. The love interest is skilfully managed and the end is finely wrought. In fact the latter part of the book is immensely better than the beginning and the story does not march till the excellent Hara is removed. The real hero is, of course, Torwade; a quite recognisable portrait of the 'spiritual tramp' who combines farming with writing for the Press. Torwade and his household at Four Ways dominate the book and who could wish for better company? We await with hopeful expectancy Mr.

Blackfriars

Blyton's next novel. *Gale Warning* should have the success it deserves. J.C.

FORGOTTEN ENGLAND. By the Rev. H. E. G. Rope. (Heath Cranton; pp. 227, 4/6 net.)

It is told that when the prodigal son, suddenly rising from the swine-troughs said, 'I only wish I had the bread I once ate in my father's home,' his fellow-spendthrift replied cynically, 'Laudator temporis acti.' For the moment the prodigal son had no answer to make. But fastening, for the last time, the door of the sty he turned homewards.

The writer of *Forgotten England* will expect and pity such readers of his book as pity him for what they deem

His over-praise
Of past days.

Yet to reassure himself in the difficult art of prophecy he will recall how it was Cleobury Mortimer where he lives that gave birth, we are told, to the singer whose 'Vision of Piers Plowman' warned Merry, Catholic, England that it might soon be sad and protestant.

It is no joy to write the book Fr. Rope has written; and because it is written so well, there is no joy in reading it. Yet it had to be written. And it should be read. V.McN.

THE OFFICE OF COMPLINE. Edited by Rev. John Burke, B.A. (Desclée).

Compline books have been published before, both good and bad, but this is much the best which we have yet seen. It is well and clearly printed, Plainsong in the square notation, complete Latin and English words (the translations are tucked in at places where they will not interrupt the eye of the singer), everything is included that is wanted for Sunday Compline throughout the year, with special hymn tunes for the seasons, and the antiphons of Our Lady. Also there is Compline for certain days in the Church's year when the Office varies. At the end there is a short Appendix with tunes for Benediction. Another recommendation is that it is strongly bound. Fr. Burke has written a short but beautiful preface, and an instructive note on Psalmody.

Users of this book—may there be many, for Compline is the ideal Sunday evening service—should be warned that the Dolef mark on the last line of p. 52 and the first line of p. 53 has 'slipped up one' and needs to be corrected. F.M.