

Blackfriars

CHIGWELL, being a brief sketch of the Congregation of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary. By Dominic Devas, O.F.M. With a foreword by His Eminence Cardinal Gasquet. (Burns, Oates and Washbourne, Ltd.; 3/6.)

What Father Dominic Devas did for the Franciscan Missionaries of Mary in his short but interesting account of Mother Mary of the Passion he has here done for the Chigwell Nuns (Sisters of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary). He relates how they came to be founded by the zeal of Père Victor Braun at a time when religious in France were few and the work for which they were needed overwhelmingly great; how they passed through times of trouble and change; and finally how the English and Austrian Provinces became independent. This little book is chiefly concerned with the history of the Congregation in the British Isles. Besides Poor Law Schools and hospital work, the Sisters make it their special duty to care for unmarried mothers, and to give them a new start in life, and also to look after and train mentally deficient children. A list of their houses, showing the particular work undertaken in each of them, is given at the end of the book.

M.F.

SISTER MARY IMMACULATE, a Lay-Sister of the Society of the Retreat of the Sacred Heart, 1884-1926. Translated by Mother St. Paul, Religious of the same Society. With a Preface by the Rev. C. C. Martindale, S.J. (Sheed and Ward; 1/6 net.)

Father Martindale says in his preface: 'In a true "society" everyone works in with everyone else; the work is, as it were, "pooled."' In this short sketch of the life and sufferings of a truly contemplative soul prevented by ill health from entering one of the great Contemplative Orders, we see how God uses all kinds of instruments for His work. Estelle Lestienne, Sister Mary Immaculate, could take a very small part in the active work of the Congregation she finally entered, but only God knows how much she helped in the work of the other members of her spiritual family by her union with God in suffering. Those who might be tempted to regard themselves as useless and inactive may find encouragement from the reading of these few pages, so admirably translated by Mother St. Paul.

S.M.F.