

BLACKFRIARS

high-principled and fervently religious man whose influence meant so much to both the sisters. She leaves him the pregnant utterance: 'Were you a Catholic, much could be done for you'—the verdict of Charlotte's finest biographer, l'Abbé Dimnet.

B.B.C.

MUSIC

A concert of particular interest was given by Miss Muriel Talbot Hodge, a young Catholic composer, at the Wigmore Hall on June 1st. A varied programme included Hilaire Belloc's *The Birds*, *Cuckoo* and *Noel*, sung as unaccompanied part-songs by the Tudor Singers with pleasantly medieval effect; three songs for baritone, with piano accompaniment, of which Walter de la Mare's *The Song of Soldiers* had an exceptional efficacy with its eerie cadence; and a Trio for Flute, Violin and Piano, of which the last number, *The Merry-go-Round*, brilliant in colour, and rhythm, stirred the audience to real enthusiasm. Curiously, Miss Hodge has 'jumped' the whole romantic period; she seems to have gone straight from the classical to the modern, with a result of clean-woven texture and unflinching workmanship. But the finest numbers of all were of a still earlier inspiration—a setting, for soprano and string quartet of the seventeenth century carol, *I sing of a maiden*, and of the thirteenth century Franciscan hymn, *My Fair Love Sleepeth on the Cross*, in both of which the spirit of the words was rendered with exquisite adequacy. While the crown of the evening was St. Francis' Canticle of the Sun, for baritone, soprano chorus, flute, clarinet, piano and string quartet. There was the very breath of the elements in the praises of Sun and Moon, Wind and Water, Fire and Earth, opening out into grave loveliness in the praise of Death, while beginning and close moved to a broad rhythm in which one had the impression of St. Francis himself, walking, walking in the blaze of the Umbrian sun.

If there is such a thing as Catholic music, here it is.

B.B.C.

BOOKS

LA DOCTRINE SOCIALE DE L'ÉGLISE. By Fr. G. C. Rutten, O.P. (Juvisy. Les Editions du Cerf; 20 fr.)

In this book are published the two Encyclicals, *Rerum Novarum* and *Quadragesimo Anno*, together with a general discussion of the social teachings of the Church. Special attention is paid to those points on which the Pope lays particular stress. Fr. Rutten, a distinguished figure in social action and a Senator of Belgium, begins by discussing the question of private pro-