

ness of a distinguished Catholic priest, who corrected the original manuscript and suggested various improvements, excisions and additions. The book is entirely non-sectarian, but its very material compels the reader to realise how hard the Pope has worked for peace. It runs to nearly 100,000 words, and includes a frontispiece of the Pope and an index.

F.A.F.

THE BOOK OF THE MIRACULOUS MEDAL. By a Vincentian Father. (Sands and Co.; 1s. 3d.)

THE SHRINE OF OUR LADY OF WALSINGHAM. By the Rev. William Reany. (Sands and Co.; 1s.)

In an address at the solemn ceremony which brought the Centenary Year of the Miraculous Medal to a close on July 19th, 1931, our late Holy Father Pius XI of glorious memory used these words: 'All the world knows that the Church is at a sad and painful epoch of its history . . . And this is when precisely in our days the Miraculous Medal comes to shine, as if to recall to us, in a sensible and tangible way, that all things, even miracles, are granted in answer to prayer; and I would say *especially miracles*. That is the magnificent and distinctive property of the Medal . . . *We have need of miracles.*'

What has happened and is happening was already foreseen by this Pope of remarkable clear vision and sound judgment. The root causes of the present world calamities were already visible to those who had eyes to see. The Pope saw that miracles alone could save the world from the consequences of its own mad career since God had been deposed in the minds and hearts of men from His rightful place as the Supreme Ruler of the destinies of mankind. To-day when we are caught up or perhaps rather sucked down into this maelstrom of evil we must realise that it was just against this day that the Pope said, '*We need miracles.*' Any book, then, which to-day directs our minds to Our Lady, always the chosen instrument for God to manifest His greatest favours to men, is a timely and important book, though in itself it may be small and unpretentious.

'*We have need of miracles,*' and the first miracle is to change the hearts of our people, of all England, that they may return again to their Mother the source of miraculous favours in every age down to the present. The apparitions of Our Lady to Bl. Catherine Labouré, examined and attested as genuine by the Church: the medal that she ordered to be struck, with its inscription, 'O Mary conceived without sin pray for us who have

recourse to thee,' a medal and a prayer that has had results which caused it to be acclaimed by universal consent as the Miraculous Medal: this was but the preparation for the definition of the Dogma of the Immaculate Conception, which in its turn prepared the way for the greatest and most outstanding visible sign that Mary has given us of her interest in and sympathy and solicitude for her human family—Lourdes and all it has meant and does mean to the present-day world. And if a non-Catholic should still be ignorant of what it means, let the words of a non-Catholic, John Oxenham, tell him: 'Whatever conclusions you come to, remember this—Lourdes is today, without question, one of the *great facts and factors in the spiritual life of France and of Europe*' (italics mine).

'Lourdes is a spiritual radio-active force which shoots its vitalising sparks broadcast through a morally, mentally and spiritually darkened world, with ever increasing intensity and benefit.

'Lourdes is a quickener of souls, and exalter of hearts and of minds, and a proved healer of bodies by means entirely unknown to medical science.

'Over four thousand men and women, surrendered to death as incurables by their doctors, have by their sudden recovery to perfect health proved beyond all shadow of doubt the miraculous healing power and the absolute verity of Lourdes.

'For myself, I believe Lourdes to be a genuine revelation of the goodness of God to a world which every day stands more and more in need of it.'

Lourdes may be now out of our reach, but not Our Lady and her power. She is but the human instrument to bring the treasures of redemption and sanctification to mankind. The power of God is not limited to one place or one time, nor therefore is the power of Mary. That she has chosen special times and places is not from any necessity on her side, but rather to meet the needs of men. If she attaches her power to some special places, and shrines to her honour spring up there, the net result is that the confidence, fervour and faith of the people are stirred up and strengthened. Strengthened indeed to such a degree that they demand and obtain miracles through the intercession of Mary. From time immemorial such shrines of Our Lady have been scattered about Europe. Not the least famous in the days before the break up of Christian unity in Europe was our own Walsingham.

Father Reany's little book is, therefore, most welcome at the present time, when it is necessary not to bring Walsingham

back to the people of England—for Our Lady has always been there waiting, but to bring England, once her dowry, back to her feet. The first miracle that we need at the present time, and which must be gained through the faith of Catholics, is to turn the eyes of non-Catholic England in the day of her need to her who is still her mother. She is a child who has been false and wayward, but we know that it is always the erring and wayward child over whom the mother yearns with the greatest love. And she will give that other miracle of the victory of our just cause and the deliverance from our enemies, who have proved themselves the enemies of her Son, if we could but promise to restore Our Lady of Walsingham to the place she once occupied in the hearts of the English people.

E.L.K.

BOOKS RECEIVED

- ALLEN AND UNWIN, LTD. : *The Church and the World*, Cyril E. Hudson and Maurice Reckitt, M.A. (7s. 6d.).
- BURNS AND OATES : *Along a Little Way*, Frances Parkinson Keyes (1s. 6d. and 2s. 6d.). *The Westminster Hymnal*, New Edition (Music 8s. 6d. ; Words, 1s. 6d. and 8d.).
- CAPE : *The Life of Percy Dearmer*, Nan Dearmer (10s. 6d.).
- CLARENDON PRESS : *The Oxford Book of Christian Verse*, Ed. Lord David Cecil (8s. 6d.).
- SANDS AND CO. : *The Book of the Miraculous Medal*, A Vincentian Father (1s. 3d.). *Happiness in Marriage*, A Priest and a Doctor (2s. 6d.).
- SHAKESPEARE HEAD PRESS : *The Voyage and Certain Songs*, T. St. Quintin Hill (2s. 6d.).