

## NOTICES

more remote. To those who are familiar with the beauty of these rugged islands, far out in the Atlantic, and who have contacted with the simple yet richly coloured lives of the Gaels beyond the mainland, *Man of Aran* will, be a source of the keenest pleasure. For it will recapture for such folk something of the early wonderment and deep enjoyment of the first visit to those rare people in their kindly Island homes.

MAIRIN MITCHELL.

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HIGH RISING. By Angela Thirkell. (Hamish Hamilton; 7/6).

Humour, continuous but quiet, and two immortal characters, Stoker the maid and the small boy Tony. If the Dark Lady moves neurotically in entertaining company, we are grateful to her for provoking the other characters to talk and plot. Mrs. Thirkell has written another welcome diversion, a delightful successor to *Ankle Deep*.

T.G.

FIDDLER OF LOURDES AND OTHER VAGABOND TALES. By John Gibbons. (Burns, Oates & Washbourne; 3/6.)

The seventeen 'vagabond tales' in this collection make pleasant reading. Without displaying any conspicuous literary merit Mr. John Gibbons never fails to hold our interest if only by his appeal to our less superficial emotions. Mr. Gibbons has succeeded in being human where many might have been merely sentimental.

C.B.

THE STABLE-GATE. (Burns, Oates & Washbourne; 3/6.)

This anonymously written collection of short stories with a single theme running through them is a charming book. It will enlighten, as well as interest and amuse, the many readers we wish it.

B.J.

HAVING A GUARDIAN ANGEL. Illustrated by Ida Bohatta-Monpurgio. Words by Cecily Hallack. (Washbourne & Bogan; pp. 32; 1/6.)

The pictures have those little details that hold the attention of a child, and the text admirably expresses its inconsequential contemplations and trustful friendliness towards the world of God and Angels.

F.S.

## BLACKFRIARS

Messrs. Burns, Oates and Washbourne continue their work of providing readable books for children. Three stories are in their latest list. A CHRISTMAS MOON, by E. C. Matthews (pp. 200; 3/6) tells of the adventures of a family of children alone in an old house. CHECK TO CAESAR, by J. Roland Evans (pp. 136; 2/6) is an imaginative romance of Kent at the time of the first Roman invasion. FATHOMS DEEP, by Edmund Burton (pp. 215; 3/6) is a thriller of submarine adventure in the South Seas. THE QUEEN'S SMILE and THE KIND-HEARTED RABBIT (1/- each) are two booklets for very small children with delightful illustrations by Robin. More didactic, the same publishers have started a *Nature and Science Series for Children*. THE NIGHT SCHOOL OF THE LEARNED SWAN, by C. F. Oddie (pp. 118; 2/6) explains the elementary truths of science by ordinary household objects and nursery toys: instructive, interesting, useful sketches. JUDY AND THE MAGIC ROCKET, by Dorothy Dudley Short (pp. 70; 2/6) is a treatise on astronomy successfully disguised as a fantastic journey to the moon and stars. All the books are illustrated.

T.O.P.

We recommend for the use and delight of children three very simple but effective books recently published by Burns, Oates & Washbourne: THE LITTLEST HOUSE AND ANN, by S. E. Locke (3/6); A ZOO HOLIDAY, by Gertrude Gleeson (2/6); and MUDDY PAWS, by K. D. Nason (2/-).

OUR LADY OF CAMBRIDGESHIRE. By M. S. Gabrielle Breeze. With an Appendix by Canon J. B. Marshall. (Cambridge: W. Heffer and Sons, Ltd.; 6d. net.)

A pamphlet, in which fact is clothed in fancy, on Our Lady in pre-Reformation Cambridgeshire, beginning with the vision of St. Simon Stock at Newnham. Particularly interesting is the appendix on the old statue, probably that of 'Our Lady of Grace' honoured by pilgrimages in the Dominican church before 1538, and now in the Catholic church at Cambridge.

M.B.

THE FRANCISCANS IN THE LAND OF OUR REDEMPTION. By Fr Conrad Aerts, O.F.M. Translated from the French by Fr. Paulinus Lavery, O.F.M., B.A. (Burns, Oates and Washbourne; 6d.)

An interesting account is given in this booklet of the work done by the Franciscan Order as Custodians of the Holy Places in Palestine; with a somewhat conscience-struck effort to re-

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concile their work as it has developed through the centuries, with St. Francis' missionary ideal. The author tells us at what great cost the Sons of 'St. Francis have been faithful to their trust. Their vicissitudes are apparently not ended, but have seemingly increased in some ways' since the Great War. Fr. Aerts evidently prefers the Turk to the British. The translation is good on the whole, if rather too awkwardly literal at times.

M.F.

HIS HOLINESS POPE PIUS XI. By Monsignor R. Fontenelle. Translated from the French by Rev. W. E. Brown, D.D. (Burns, Oates & Washbourne, Ltd.; 2/6.)

An excellent translation of a most interesting book. Perhaps the many-sidedness of his character and activities is the most surprising thing about this most surprising of popes, who at the time of his election had been only three years a bishop and had spent thirty in the unostentatious post of chaplain to a convent of nuns.

The world knows Pius XI as a great diplomat, *savant*, mountaineer even, but few know him as a man of great spiritual depth and an apostle in the confessional. Of such aspects we necessarily get only hints, but even these are enlightening and increase our love as well as our knowledge of 'the Pope of the Lateran Treaty.'

M.B.

THE PAPAL FORCES. By Captain F. R. Mellor. (Burns, Oates & Washbourne; pp. 40; 2/-.)

This study of the history and present state of the Pope's standing army is of considerable interest, if only to correct the mistaken notion that they are only a picturesque survival, such as the Beefeaters of the Tower of London. A fuller treatment than that given in Captain Mellor's work would be welcome.

R.D.

The dissertations in medieval history published by the Catholic University of America under the direction of Dr. Peter Guilday have set a high standard of scholarship; this standard is even heightened by the latest, Dr. J. B. Walker's *Chronicles of S. Antoninus*. His Dominican kinship gives him sympathy with his subject; his historical training and his hard work have made his judgement on it sure, just and balanced. It is all that such a dissertation should be.

B.J.

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THE PRIEST'S COMPANION. A Manual of Prayers, Devotions, Meditations and Self Direction. By the Rev. B. F. Marcetteau, S.S. (Washbourne & Bogan, Ltd., 1933; pp. xviii, 398; 3/6.)

As the subtitle suggests, this book, though small, is very full. Many of the Prayers and Devotions are taken from the Breviary and the Missal, some from the writings of the Saints. The Meditations are fairly exhaustive and at the same time practical and restrained. The Section 'A Rule of Life' (or Self-Direction) is detailed and wise. If the book has a fault it is the fault of all manuals: an emphasis on detail which may leave more important things under a cloud. But the scope given to individual devotion in the Meditations and the classic simplicity of the liturgical prayers, in the present case, help to restore the balance. A busy priest will find the book a useful companion.

R.B.M.

THIS WAY TO LOURDES. By Rev. J. I. Lane. (Burns, Oates & Washbourne; pp. 112; 1/6.)

The author of this useful little handbook for pilgrims is the honorary secretary of the Lourdes Pilgrimage Association for the Archdiocese of Liverpool. It is based on long personal experience of pilgrimages and their organization and contains much detailed information and advice concerning the journey, hotels, and the programme at Lourdes. A brief life of Bernadette, some meditations and notes on the miracles are also included. The work is attractively got up and illustrated and should prove of interest to the general reader as well as to those for whom it is more particularly intended.

A.O.

MYSTICAL FLOWERS FROM CALVARY (Washbourne and Bogan, 3/6) are selected sayings from the works of St. Paul of the Cross. The thoughts are charming, the translation neither accurate nor English.

B.J.

We have received from Desclée de Brouwer et Cie (Paris) in their CHOISIR series of texts a new volume, *Joseph de Maistre*, with a full and distinctive introduction by Alexis Crosnier. The passages are well selected from his correspondence and his principal works. We need only add that the volume has a valuable table of contents and analytical index. The price for this and the previous volume, *Dupanloup*, is 15 francs.

B.J.