

Blackfriars

THE MIRACLE OF PEILLE. By J. L. Campbell. (Collins; 6/-)

Thérèse Ursule is the orphan of a gypsy woman, and a handsome peasant unjustly condemned to death for the murder of the Abbé of Peille. The child is a cripple; she is unbaptised; she is the victim of persecution; the credulous villagers think she is possessed, and her father's last message declares that his soul will go to hell the moment she enters a church. Thérèse does not enter a church; she is not baptised, and does not receive the Sacraments of Holy Eucharist and Penance until she is dying (and then without being baptised). Yet she is the instrument of God's special favours; she works miracles and receives the stigmata. (The miracles are really attractive, although they are too frequent to be convincing.)

The lamentable ideas of the Catholic faith that are expressed spoil an otherwise lovely book. Thérèse is a glorious person, and every other character is as greatly alive as she is. The drama, the colour, the simplicity of the book, are admirable: the situations in it are all delicious: one must compare it with *The Bridge of San Luis Rey* and *Death Comes to the Archbishop*, but with the regretful admission that Mr. Campbell has not troubled to perfect his knowledge of his subject as he has perfected his style.

R.R.

OCCASIONAL SERMONS. By Cardinal Francis Bourne, Archbishop of Westminster. (Sheed & Ward; 6/-.)

It is not only because a bishop's lightest word is heavy, but still more because we know the practical wisdom and the deep spirituality of the Cardinal Archbishop of Westminster that we welcome this sequel to the Congress Addresses which we noticed a short while ago.

There are many other sermons which might have been added by the compilers to these twenty-two, and we would be glad to see on a future occasion some specimens of that peculiarly intimate and Salesian homily in which His Eminence excels. In the present volume, however, we have before us the kernel of the more public pastoral utterances of Cardinal Bourne, delivered on occasions of Catholic or national importance.

We find here what we had expected, much sound and sanctified good sense, with a sure insight for the point in question and wide human sympathy. These very English characteristics are rounded off by a certain French lucidity and order of mind which make a happy combination.