

Blackfriars

matters which receive attention are for instance, the custody of the Blessed Sacrament, Exposition, Benediction, the Forty Hours Devotion, the administration of the Sacraments, special preachers, church music. We may note in passing that the Forty Hours is not an optional devotion, but, as is clear from the text of Canon Law, should be held each year in all churches where the Blessed Sacrament is habitually reserved, though the choice of day, as the author mentions, with the approval of the Ordinary, is left to the discretion of the rector.

A.F.

AN INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY. By Jacques Maritain. Translated by E. I. Watkin. (London : Sheed and Ward, 1932. The Hart Library. Pp. 272 ; 5/-.)

A sketch of Thomist philosophy, drawn with economy, yet providing more than a sort of road-map in the flat for it does something to suggest the contours of the ground. We look forward to M. Maritain's complete course, of which this is but the general introduction. The publishers deserve praise for re-publishing this translation in a cheap edition. It moves somewhat awkwardly, but then so does the original, which was meant as a text-book.

N.W.T.G.

ST. PHILIP NERI AND THE ROMAN SOCIETY OF HIS TIMES. By L. Ponnelle and L. Bordet. Translated by R. F. Kerr, of the Oratory. (Sheed & Ward, 1932 ; Cloth, 609 pp., with 4 portraits ; 16/-.)

This sumptuously produced book has been hailed by the well-known writer, M. Bremond, as the masterpiece of modern biography. It is a very full and scholarly life of St. Philip, and a wonderful picture of his times and of the Catholic Reform Movement of the period. Much untouched material has been utilised, the mere enumeration of the authorities drawn upon occupying nearly fifty pages of the Introduction. The Process of the Canonization, and the Saint's Letters, are largely quoted from, and everywhere the authors have aimed at putting aside all second-hand information and going back to the original sources, vast masses of which have been hitherto unexplored. Not that St. Philip is buried beneath all this erudition. He stands out a living personality, charmingly attractive, one half in heaven, the other half on earth. The human side of him is stressed, but the supernatural is not ignored. And the world he lived in is vividly re-created, and its men and women move through the