

Other is the purpose of Canon Hodgson in his inaugural lecture as Regius Professor of Divinity at Oxford. He seeks an answer to the question, "must theology inevitably belong to a world of thought alien to that of the scientific outlook?" The main interest of this lecture lies in the light it throws on the ideas prevalent in certain schools of non-catholic thought. Under the influence of an unacceptable conception of divine revelation, such thinkers are led to reduce theology to "an empirical study of the evidences for certain mighty acts of God in the history of the world, pursued with a view to understanding them for what they are." Theology becomes a complexus of linguistic, scientific and historical studies on the documents which tell us of those "mighty acts"; it is, indeed, one of the sciences, as opposed to Christian philosophy; the latter endeavouring to probe the meaning of the universe and of human life in the light of these studies. ANTONINUS FINLLI, O.P.

TOO SMALL A WORLD. *The Life of Francesca Cabrini.* By Theodore Maynard. (Bruce Publishing Co., Milwaukee; \$2.50).

The first American citizen to be canonized, Francesca Saverio Cabrini, wins for the active apostolate she so magnanimously practised a recognition which implies an equally magnanimous spirit. On the face of it a Martina, sent by Leo XIII to mother, in schools, orphanages and hospitals, his neglected Italian-Americans, the motto of the frail unassuming Lombard nun was "*Omnia possum in Eo*". "Let us work, Cabrini; let us work," said the Pope. "Heaven is for those who work like you. Courage, Cabrini. Go on working until the end." What little we know of his emissary's interior life, divinely balances her incredible activity. "I would become weak and languid . . . were I to be without the sleep of prayer . . . in the Heart of my beloved Jesus."

Mr. Theodore Maynard's modestly official *Life* contents itself with a happy assemblage of all the relevant facts. One may be glad that missionaries are no longer expected to take umbrage at primitive native customs without feeling that the biographer was unsound in retraining from judging his heroine by more modern and more ethnological standards. The story of the foundation of the Institute of the Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus is a record of high spiritual adventure, and all its details are precious.

It is amusing to note that during the only ten days Mother Cabrini spent in England, she got lost in the Underground; and was impressed by "the nobility and courtesy" of the Londoners under these untoward circumstances.

HELEN PARRY EDEN.

THE STATE AND OURSELVES. By C. R. Cook. (S.C.M. Press; 2s. 6d.).

In this book, the writer deals mainly with State activity, in economic and social matters. He traces briefly the growth of social policy during the past hundred years and shows how the insufficiency of private endeavours, charity, mutual aid societies, etc., to relieve distress, forced the State to assume greater obligations in solving the social problem; the culminating point has been reached in the Beveridge Report and the White Paper on Social Insurance. He considers the twofold end, proposed in this policy as the solution: to relieve distress and to prevent it: to secure the standard of living of the citizen by securing the income on which it is based. "The State is therefore brought to the threshold of a time when it will at last fully satisfy the needs of its citizens." (page 53).

Clearly the writer is enthusiastic about the new social policy: we hope events will justify his enthusiasm. Some of the less pleasant aspects, such as mobility of labour, he passes over rather lightly.

Although confident that the State can effect the proposed reforms, he states

clearly that only the application of Christian principles can achieve real success. "The first aim of social progress must be to give the fullest possible scope for the exercise of all powers and qualities which are distinctly personal." (Dr. Temple in his Gifford Lectures).
P. MACNAMARA.

A HANDBOOK OF HERESIES. By M. L. Cozens. (Sheed & Ward; 5s.).

On its first appearance in 1928, Miss Cozens' book was described in BLACKFRIARS as an "admirable presentment of a difficult subject". It seems unnecessary to say more: certainly the need for a clear guide through the tangled undergrowth of Arianism, Sabellianism, Nestorianism and the rest of the catalogue up to Modernism, has not grown less in seventeen years. And the older the heresy, it seems, the more vigorous its modern revivals.

ERRATUM

The Editor regrets that in the January Issue a line was omitted from "The Age Before Print" at the foot of p. 26. The sentence should have read: "How far does it truly represent the literature of Europe between, say, Boethius and Chaucer? If it is on the whole a true picture then how boring that literature must be."

BLACKFRIARS

(with which is incorporated *The Catholic Review*).

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Communications regarding Advertisements should be addressed to the Manager, Blackfriars, Oxford (Tel. 3607).

Subscriptions and orders for copies should be sent to Messrs. Basil Blackwell, 49 Broad Street, Oxford (Tel. 3487). Annual Subscription 12/6 post free (in U.S.A. \$3).

Printed for the Proprietors at the Ditchling Press, Sussex.