

but is far inferior. This story of the Crucifixion and the officers concerned has caused Mr Goldthorpe infinite research, but practically no imaginative effort. He has had a good idea and perhaps a script-writer for CinemaScope will yet salvage it.

NEVILLE BRAYBROOKE

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## NOTICES

THE GOLDEN MAN (Blackfriars Publications, 7s. 6d.), by Anthony Ross, O.P., is a collection of lives of saints, inspired by the method of an earlier Dominican, Blessed James of Voragine, whose *Golden Legend* was so formative a book for the spirituality of the Middle Ages. Fr Ross rightly insists that 'legends are not pious nonsense, but attempts to say by means of symbols things which seem to defeat any other means of expression'. His 'lives' of such saints as St Christopher, St Roch, Sts Perpetua and Felicity, St Katherine of Alexandria and St Andrew are charming examples of this precept put into practice, and while they are particularly addressed to younger readers they cannot fail to move anyone who seeks the 'golden man', that ideal of Christian holiness exemplified alike in king or commoner, priest or slave.

A CENTURY OF WRITERS (Chatto and Windus, 21s.) must be counted the best bargain in books for a very long time. Over seven hundred pages, selected from a century of publishing by the house of Chatto and Windus, bring back poems by Swinburne, stories by Stevenson, Wilkie Collins, Trollope, Hardy, Ouida and Tchekhov from the past, as well as the work of Proust, C. E. Montague, Lytton Strachey and Norman Douglas from more recent authors. In addition two novels are printed in full—Aldous Huxley's *Crome Yellow* and Par Lagerkvist's remarkable biblical story, *Barabbas*. For full value—and in another order—one may add the names of F. R. Leavis, E. M. Y. Tillyard, V. S. Pritchett and Basil Willey as reminders of how important has been the contribution of Chatto and Windus to English criticism.

FRANCIS THOMPSON AND OTHER ESSAYS, a collection of occasional writings by Fr Vincent McNabb, O.P., originally appeared twenty years ago in celebration of his jubilee as a Dominican. It is now reissued by Blackfriars Publications (4s. 6d.), and is a pleasant reminder of the variety of Fr Vincent's interests but, too, of the single-minded zeal which gave authority to all that he wrote. G. K. Chesterton's introduction is included, in which he says 'briefly and firmly that he [Fr Vincent] is one of the few great men I have met in my life'.

ROME BEYOND THE IMPERIAL FRONTIERS, by Sir Mortimer Wheeler, was reviewed at length in these pages on its original publication. It is now available in Penguin Books at 3s. 6d. A valuable new Penguin is Roger Manvell's *THE FILM AND THE PUBLIC* (3s. 6d.), which replaces Dr Manvell's deservedly popular *Film*. It is a comprehensive guide to film-making and film-criticism, and a large number of illustrations together with a full bibliography and a list of important films, directors and actors, make this an essential work of reference as well as an authoritative essay on the film's history and evolution.

DIARY OF A SELF-MADE CONVICT, by Alfred Hassler (Gollancz, 10s. 6d.), is yet another American 'revelation' of prison life. But this time the writer is neither crook nor journalist: he was imprisoned as a conscientious objector, and although he writes on prison life from within he does so with a detachment and sobriety unusual in such books. Even so, his verdict is that 'Prison doesn't protect society, doesn't reduce crime, doesn't reform the criminal'.

The DIRECTORY OF RELIGIOUS ORDERS OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND (James Burns, Glasgow; 10s. 6d.) is a useful, though not very satisfactorily arranged, work of reference. In addition to lists of houses there are useful historical notes about each order. Some indication of their present numerical strength would have been valuable.

MANNERS AT MASS (Burns Oates, 3s. 6d.) is a salutary essay on the movements and gestures of public worship which should help to instruct the faithful in their proper share in the Church's prayer.

WESTMINSTER CATHEDRAL is worthily described and illustrated in a new pictorial guide (Pitkin Pictorials, 2s. 6d.) The Administrator (Mgr Gordon Wheeler) provides an authoritative commentary, and text and photographs alike evoke the glory of a cathedral which should be the pride of English Catholic life. Engravings of proposed Gothic designs are a reminder of what a good fortune it was that Bentley was the architect and the Byzantine the chosen style for this most living of cathedrals.

LIGHTS ALONG THE SHORE (*The World's Work*, 15s.) is a collection of 'inspirational stories and articles' by Fulton Oursler.

MATT TALBOT is commemorated in a new life by Mary Purcell (Gill, Dublin, 12s. 6d.) which contains much new material and should do much to further interest in the Irish labourer and in the cause of his beatification.