

two. Conscientious objection (St Martin) may leave some readers wondering. The reflections on the mutual attraction of saints like St Francis de Sales and St Jane de Chantal will, I dare say, be of great help to some readers.

But the notable thing about the book is the system (defended only at the end, which was very wise) on which it is written. It is, briefly, as follows: make up your mind what is meant by really being a saint: exclude everything extraordinary except what you are fairly compelled to believe: admit that real saints have real faults, and don't be afraid to relate them: then look at the evidence and put a fair construction on it. It is historical criticism applied to the soul-life of real persons. Its strength is obvious. Its weakness is the unpredictability of the individual and of God's ways of working. But if there is a correct pattern for such hagiographical work I think Mr Watkin has come very near to drawing it and following it out in this book.

G. M. CORR, O.S.M.

OUR CHILDREN AND THE MASS. By Rev. A. de Sauveboeuf. (Challoner Publications; 4s. 6d.)

At a time when all Catholic teachers are seeking a solution to the problem of the leakage, this welcome handbook of practical suggestions and methods of teaching children to appreciate the Mass will be found an invaluable aid.

While it is obvious to all that the great need is for children, even quite young children, not only to know what is happening at the principal parts of the Mass but also to be able to recognize the action as it is in progress, the value of this little book is that it attempts to solve the problem of ways and means. It is worth while realizing that the main cause of boredom at Mass on the part of children is their inability to follow the movements of the priest. As a result of a questionnaire (and it may be of interest to note that a similar result was obtained in an English school recently), it is clear that the main causes are:

- (a) Not teaching the children at a sufficiently early age how to use a Missal or at least how to follow the principal parts of the Mass in a prayer book.
- (b) The difficulty of sometimes not being able to see the priest, hear what he is saying, or follow his actions.
- (c) The singing of hymns, as distinct from the singing of the Mass, seems to be a cause of distraction to children.

In general, the methods suggested for training children at the various ages are well worth careful study and putting into effect, and certainly children brought up on these lines should leave school with a deeper appreciation of and devotion to the Holy Mass.

SR M. AEMILIA, O.P.