

BLACKFRIARS

How many, vaguely lumped together as ' apathetic ' or not awake to modern problems, have gone through this stage?

A. E. H. SWINSTEAD.

PICTANTIAE.

IF the poorer classes were to regulate the expansion of their families, as the middle and upper classes have long been doing, the hideous poverty now so widely rampant would disappear; throughout the world there would be a higher standard of living, and machinery would no longer dominate a large section of the population, but would usefully minister to the expanding wants of man.—Mr. Harold Cox, in a letter to *The Times*.

Wycliffe was no Friar but a practical reformer.

—Sir Charles Mallet, in the *Oxford University Handbook*.

On the occasion of my visit to the radio station, Father Gianfranceschi took from the folder in his desk an excellent photograph of a beautiful German moving-picture actress and displayed it with evident pride. 'This just came from Berlin by wireless,' he explained.—From an article, *Modernizing the Vatican*, in *The Commonwealth*.

Like *The Tablet*, our French contemporary (*La Croix*) endures obloquy from its adversaries, which is a Note or Mark of Catholic faithfulness.—*The Tablet*.

Birth-control might well have been mentioned, for it is not a subject one can, or need, keep from children, who, if they hear of it in a matter-of-fact way, take it with admirable matter-of-factness, realising the need for spacing a family.—Mrs. Naomi Mitchison, in a review in *Good Housekeeping*.

' Reunion, not submission '—a vain hope until that day when Rome shall change her attitude, and cease to excommunicate all outside her own communion.—Archdeacon T. E. Usherwood, in *The Church Times*.

BERNARD SHAW'S LATEST BOOK. Why the Universe Will Not Advertise It.—Column heading.

In Defence of Children.—By Dora Russell.

It is the function of the architect, so far as he is an artist, and not a builder or an engineer, to design buildings of pleasing shapes.—Prof. Bernard Ashmole, in *The Listener*.

Utility and tidiness in excelsis. A Children's Nursery in a German house. Nothing to play with except prickly cactus.—Caption to a photograph illustrating scientific humanist building in *Architectural Design and Construction*.

What did they think of the feelings of a banker at the present time when he was inundated with money which he could not make good use of and could not employ profitably.—The chairman of Lloyds Bank, speaking on *The Trials of a Banker*, reported in *The Times*.

THE WASTE OF THE PRACTICAL REASON

THOSE who are familiar with the writings of M. Jacques Maritain will remember his summary of the ancient and mediaeval teaching upon art.¹ The foundation of these doctrines was the distinction between the speculative and the practical reason. In the first category were placed philosophy and pure science, in the second, action and making. Any man seeking knowledge, directing his actions or making objects, was equipped for his task by a *habitus*, a virtue which (perfecting and directing his natural gifts) could be perfected itself by correct training and right use.

The maker, artist, or artisan, working in matter, gave it a shape or form already conceived in his mind. The genesis and perfection of this spiritual form de-

¹ *Art et Scolastique*.