

Book Reviews

or Migne editions and his acquaintance with 'the last of the Fathers' is generally scrappy, limited to the occasional homily in the Breviary or to such anthologies as Père Aigrain's excellent *Les Plus Belles Pages de St. Bernard*. In this new book we have something more than 'good quotations' or flowers for the pious calendar: it is a compilation of St. Bernard's own words in the form of a systematized theology. St. Bernard, who lived and wrote in the tradition and manner of the Fathers stands at the threshold of the age of the Schoolmen. He had little sympathy with the new methods, and he was suspicious of the new rationalism. The subsequent excesses of the Averroists more than justified his fears. It is in vain we look in his writings for the conciseness and scientific idiom of the scholastics; yet the scholastics are indebted to Bernard; and St. Thomas has not forgotten to acknowledge that indebtedness and sounded his praises in superlative terms.

We recommend this book as an easy introduction to the thought and teaching of St. Bernard. It is a pity that the author sometimes distracts us by intruding into the text his own reflections—with brackets and marks of exclamation, it is true; but if such comments are necessary, they should be relegated to the bottom of the page among the footnotes. And why, oh why no index? An index of such a book as this would be a complete guide and concordance to the theology of the Saint, and it would have heightened the value of the book more than tenfold.

B.D.

THE RENEWED CHURCH OF THE UNITED BRETHREN, 1722—1930.

By William George Addison, M.A., B.D., Ph.D. (London: S.P.C.K.; pp. 228; 12/6.)

Most of us know little of the Moravians, except that they are avowedly anti-Catholic, are sincere and strenuous in aiming at personal holiness, and attach great importance to committee-meetings. Dr. Addison's work does not profess to be a complete history of the 'Brethren,' but from the epoch of the lovable autocrat Count Zinzendorf onwards it gives a large amount of extensive and peculiar information. Especially interesting are the pleasant but futile correspondence of Zinzendorf and Cardinal de Noailles, and the various discreet pourparlers between the Moravians and the Anglican authorities. We note that while Zinzendorf was deferential and concessive in his appeals to Archbishops Wake and Potter, the Moravian spokesmen in our own day do not envisage the idea of union

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by absorption. Dr. Addison's volume is not exactly fascinating, but as a thoughtful and sympathetic study, obviously the fruit of wide reading, and based on a thorough familiarity with the *mémoires pour servir*, it will no doubt retain an assured place in the literature of the subject. We venture to suggest that it might have been well to give the English of German terms and phrases. And we quote this pregnant sentence of Dr. Addison: 'As the history of Christendom abundantly testifies, where primary principles diverge it is impossible to expect collaboration, even in the practical pursuit of allied ends.'

E.J.

MARRIAGE. From the French of Raoul Plus, S.J. (London: Burns, Oates and Washbourne, Ltd.; pp. 95; 3/6.)

We welcome this terse and direct little book on the rights and duties of marriage. In the second part, on the preparation for marriage, some of the remarks are more in accord with French than English convention. Perhaps their sentiment is a little too expressly elevating for our tastes. For instance, the young officer who writes to his dear Edwige: 'From the bottom of my heart I assure you that it would be an excellent thing if you entered a convent.' And at least once you feel the grind of an unnecessary brake: 'Any familiarity serving to prepare for, or to complete, the marriage act—so long as this is normally performed—is allowed. Evidently, however, it is more perfect not to go beyond what is strictly necessary for the purpose of the act' (p. 25). And by this the author means the begetting of children. Good practice can be bad theory. See *Wowsers*.

T.G.

LEAVES FROM LIFE. By Dr. E. J. Dillon. (London: J. M. Dent & Sons, Ltd., 1932; pp. 843; 7/6.)

Essays and stories—shockers many of them—based on the experiences of a veteran journalist, university professor, man of affairs. The period is the end of the nineteenth century, when fashionable ladies swished a glittering way to the opera and Russian princes, fur-coated and distinguished, made the round of the resorts of Europe. The scene changes from Budapest, to St. Petersburg, Vienna, Paris, Frankfort. The atmosphere is reproduced, you raise cups of a refreshing beverage to your lips, dance on the light fantastic toe, and drive out to the country in a barouche to plunge your soul in the beauties