

NOTICES

The story is sufficiently up-to-date to include incidents arising from the Spanish civil war and the Palestine disturbances; but it has a cleverly interwoven background of history and topography, especially about the Holy Land. The second of these books is of a different type; it has heroines instead of heroes, but very modern ones who pilot an aeroplane to Central Africa as the opening phase of a casual vacation. Accompanied by the father of one of the girls, who is a Professor of Classics, and his housekeeper, they find themselves landing eventually in a mountain-bound valley inhabited by a lost region of ancient Rome. All things considered the fantasy is remarkably credible and well sustained; only those who have used Latin as a *lingua franca* would query the ease with which the Professor, and even the accomplished young ladies, understood and were understood by the colonists. But it is a good tale, well told.

Fantasies of a different sort are offered in the remaining two volumes. *The Dragon and the Mosquito* is the first of five short stories; it is an amusing tale with a moral, while the rest are faintly reminiscent of the *Just-So Stories*, though none the less distinctively original and the line-drawing illustrations (far too few) are notably good. But probably *Tob and his Dog*, with their adventures in an elusively fairy-tale atmosphere, will appeal still more, especially to the young ones approaching the dignity of double figures, although it must be said that the illustrations here are not at all as good.

HILARY J. CARPENTER, O.P.

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MOTHER MARGARET HALLAHAN, O.P. By Fr. Walter Gumbley, O.P., F.R.Hist.S. (S. Walker, Hinckley, Leics.; 1s. 6d.)

The learned author has excellently contrived to produce a brief and simple yet wholly scholarly record of the life and work of one, already admired by many, whom her devoted friend and spiritual father, Archbishop Ullathorne, described as "the most remarkable religious woman of her age," whose enterprise and courage resulted in what Cardinal Manning judged to be "the greatest work in England for the Church and Religion of anyone he had ever known." As Father Gumbley himself protests, this is in no sense an attempt to supplant the great life of Mother Margaret written and published within a year of her death by Mother Drane. Indeed it was he who edited the new edition of that monumental biography only a few years ago. But he has now had the advantage of access to some original documents discovered since that time, principally dealing with Mother

Margaret's early life; and moreover he has provided a reasonably priced and handy volume for those who might not feel justified in spending the greater amount of money and time in purchasing and reading the full biography. It will prove particularly useful to those desirous of spreading the already wide public interest in this remarkable Servant of God and in need of some introductory account which they can lend or give to all and sundry.

H. J. C.

THE MYSTERY OF MARY. By Bede Frost. (Mowbray; 5s.)

It is pleasing to receive a study on Our Lady coming from an Anglican source. The author is concerned to give a sketch of the gradual development of Marian tradition which from earliest times is seen to be implicit in the Faith of the Church.

There is shown to be an intimate and even essential connection between Mary and the mysteries of faith which cannot be ignored by anyone. "As the relation between Jesus and Mary is a living and permanent one, so is the relation of Jesus and Mary to all those who are born again . . . sharing by grace that relationship which Jesus had by nature both with His eternal Father and His human Mother." Even in Our Lord's redemptive work she is His "companion in act."

The book is frankly apologetic in approach, and should do much to dispel prejudices by a better understanding of the truly Christian attitude towards the Mother of God. Some phrases and the meaning attached to the terms "the Church," "definition" are unlikely to receive endorsement from a Catholic theologian.

The author is perhaps at his best when dealing with the New Testament witness to Our Lady, though his understanding of the "senses" of Scripture is mistaken. He also dwells a little over-much on the seeming rebukes administered to Our Lord by His holy Mother.

A. F.

OUR LADY OF SORROWS. Translated by F. J. Sheed. (Sheed & Ward; 2s. 6d.)

The translator and publisher of this little book on the Lady of the Seven Sorrows has given English readers a book worth reading and translating. When we say that the notes of reference teem with the name of that great servant of Our Lady, Père Lagrange, we have said enough. The book should have as many readers as there are those who love reading and love Our Lady.

V. McM.

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Burns, Oates & Washbourne have, in *THE CHRISTMAS CRIB* by Nesta de Robeck (8s. 6d.), produced a singularly handsome Christmas present. The author, in a work profusely and most beautifully illustrated, shows the gradual growth and evolution of the modern Christmas crib from the devotion evinced by the early Church towards the actual spot on earth which witnessed the Birth of the Saviour. Very charming is the description of Saint Francis and his wondrous celebration of Christmas at Greccio and the marvellous crib he made there. With much keen research the author has studied closely the evolution of crib-making, and its spread throughout the chief European countries, particularly in Germany where it has become a national custom, and the Germans have truly led the way in modern crib art.

W. G.

The first four titles of Messrs Sheed & Ward's shilling UNICORN BOOKS are on the market in the neat and handy format which we have learned to associate with *Penguins* and *Pelicans*. We hope that the response to this enterprise will be such that we may look forward to seeing a good variety of them on our bookstalls—including some good fiction and even some *Unicorn "Specials."* The first titles are Adam's *Spirit of Catholicism*, Dawson's *Progress and Religion*, Sargent's *Thomas More*, and Ghéon's *Secret of the Curé d'Ars*.

Mr. Edward Westerbrook's pleasing but unpretentious Christmas cards are appreciated by many who are impatient of the irrelevant trumpery in the trays of the stationers and repositories. He has issued a new set of nine designs (2s. 3d. post free) as well as a set of small gift cards (12 assorted for 6d.): obtainable from the designer, St. Benet's, Westgate-on-Sea, Kent.

BOOKS RECEIVED

- ALLEN & UNWIN: *Provence. From Minstrels to the Machine*, Ford Madox Ford, illus., Biala (12s. 6d.)
- ANONIMA LIBRARIA CATTOLICA ITALIANA (Rome): *Introductionis in Sacros utriusque Testamenti Libros Compendium*, Hildebrandus Höpfl, O.S.B., Vol. III, *Introductio Specialis in N.T.* (ed.4a) (L.36.—.)
- BAGSTER: *Peace Music* (Poems), Mary Winter Were (9d.).
- BLACKWELL (Oxford): *The D.X.V. Prophecy: Dante and the Sabbatum Fidelium*, Rose Nolan Ferrall (6s.)
- BURNS OATES: *The Christmas Crib*, Nesta de Robeck (8s. 6d.); *Sermons in the Sahara*, Charles de Foucauld, tr. D. Attwater (2s. 6d.); *The Companions of Youth*, St. John Bosco (1s. 6d.); *Saints and Adventures*, Vera Barclay (2s. 6d.); *Series of Lives for Children: St. Paul*, Wilkinson Sherren; *Little Saint Agnes*, Helen Walter Homan (1s. each); *The Poor and Ourselves*, Daniel-Rops, tr.