

BLACKFRIARS

feeble arms of the Milletesque *Bracken Mower* (No. 186) are lamentably typical and his *Connoisseur* (No. 199) is probably the worst picture in the exhibition, though Greiffenhagen's *Woman by a Lake* (No. 311) runs it close. Lambert's *Boxers* (No. 248) has unexpected virility and a greater grasp of form than most of his work, and Tuke's startlingly pretty *Genoa* (No. 276) stands out well from a wall of monotonously sunlit boys. The statuary is uniformly awful.

All in all, results do not show the idea of holding a commemorative exhibition on quite so large a scale to have been a happy one. The Orpen and Ricketts rooms certainly deserve a visit, but, as for the rest of the exhibition, what is it but an untimely reminiscence of a very, very bad epoch of English painting? Fifty post-mortems would not change the verdict of 'Death from natural causes.'

JOHN POPE-HENNESSY.

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LE CHRIST. ENCYCLOPEDIE POPULAIRE DES CONNAISSANCES CHRISTOLOGIQUES. (Bloud et Gay ; 60 fr.)

One of the Manuals of Catholic Action. A truly excellent work for laymen. Not journalists' impressions of the subject, but a synthetic, co-operative survey by experts : Lemonyer, O.P., Lavergne, O.P., Héris, O.P., Huby, S.J., Lepin, Bardy, Tricot, Pirot, Amann, etc., etc. And really complete : Christ from all aspects : the Roman and Jewish background : Christ in the Gospels—value of the evidence : the life of Christ and His teaching : history of the Christological dogma : the theology of the Incarnation : the psychology of Christ : the Redeemer. Then Christ in the religious life of humanity : this the weakest section, too much importance given to later individualistic piety, but Bardy on the Mystical Body is admirable, and Héris enlightening on the Eucharist. An original article also by Bardy, Christ as seen by non-Christians, Jews, Pagans, Islam, of great value. Finally Christ in art, in music, in literature, in 'lives of Christ,' the crucifix in art—sound information, dim illustrations. Catholic Action demands that the layman must live on dogma : above all on the Christ-dogma. This therefore is an essential book for him.—(A.M.)

L'EGLISE A LA FIN DU PREMIER SIECLE. By G. Bardy. (Bloud et Gay ; 12 fr.)

Readers of the *Revue Biblique* will not want an introduction to Bardy. He is in the great line of Duchesne, Tixeront, Batiffol.

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This is a little book—170 pages—but critical and scholarly. The period is of prime importance in the story of the Christian community—the transition period between the Apostles and the Apologists. What happened then? Radical change or homogeneous development? Bardy analyses and assesses the documentary evidence, describes the constituents of Christian life at the time—Baptism, the Eucharist, Liturgical prayer; the Church organisation, the Episcopate, the Roman See; the Judæo-Christians and the early heresies, finally Christianity in the Empire, persecution, and Christian expansion in Europe and Asia. A cautious and inclusive survey of real value.—(A.M.)

THE HISTORY AND LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENTS. By A. Villien. (Burns, Oates & Washbourne; 8/6.)

History and archaeology tend to clog the Liturgical movement, to make it a merely material *revival* of past forms. This is fatal: history's only function in the matter is explanation—to elucidate rites, ceremonies, etc., now otherwise incomprehensible, thus revealing to us their meaning and *spirit*, and preventing us from worshipping them precisely *because* they are incomprehensible and as tabus. Prof. Villien, of the *Institut Catholique* of Paris, keeps to this function and throws much light on the ritual of Baptism, the Eucharist, Penance, Unction, Orders and Marriage. Having read it one assists more intelligently at the Sacraments—a sufficient justification for the book. A pity, however, to confine 'the Eucharist' to Holy Communion—for reasons of length and difficulty. The Eucharist is *one*, a sacramental sacrifice: the sacrifice-oblation and the sacrifice-banquet. Communion is participation in the sacrifice just offered—a sacrificial meal. Communion and Mass should not be separated except for urgent reasons, therefore undesirable to divorce them in exposition, especially in popular exposition. The book is interestingly written and Mr. H. W. Edwards' translation careful and readable.—(A.M.)

THE CASE AGAINST EINSTEIN. By Dr. Arthur Lynch. (Philip Allan & Co.; pp. xxx, 275; 10/6.)

This book does not appear to have been intended for a scientific or a learned public. Nine pages are devoted to explaining the elementary processes of the Differential Calculus, with a footnote suggesting that they may be skipped by those who cannot afford the time for close attention; and French or German phrases and words which the author introduces are invariably translated. Moreover, it is his expressed intention to overcome the popular reputation of Einstein.

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Dr. Lynch is careful to disavow any reliance upon the authority of those he cites, but perhaps we are justified in suspecting that the real appeal of the book is not to reason, but to impressing the author's own authority on the lay mind. Most of his use of foreign tongues and his claim to personal acquaintance with some of those great thinkers whose works he mentions, and whose names make such an imposing array, seem to admit of no other explanation.

He is not, however, exempt from translationese (p. 117), mis-translation (p. 160), and misspelt German (p. 98). He quotes Einstein himself, I think, only once, and Relativists usually without giving references. Difficult reading is due to the authors he attacks rather than to his criticisms of them; thus Sir Arthur Eddington is apparently convicted (on p. 237) of making a *howler* in an important passage, equating two reciprocals to zero in the space of half a page.

Surely we cannot take Dr. Lynch as an authority; nor should we allow ourselves to be convinced by over-simple arguments, when the experts he attacks are propounding theories outside our grasp.—(Q.J.)

We recommend to our readers as books to be kept on open shelves near their writing tables the two now classic publications of Burns, Oates and Washbourne, *The Catholic Directory* (3/6) and *The Catholic Who's Who* (5/-). These are remarkable for their price, and even more for their accuracy. There are a few slips; but in such details as these books give, how few!—(B.J.)

GEMMA OF LUCCA. By Benedict Williamson. (Alexander-Ouseley, 3/6.)

Fr. Williamson sees in Gemma the humble, patient, self-sacrificing saint of Lucca, a model for men and women to-day. At a time when suffering, though it may be pitied, is not sought for, or even willingly accepted, her life recalls the traditionally Christian 'doctrine of the Cross.' The reader, if he is to profit by this Life of Gemma, must not allow the element of the miraculous to obscure her fundamental piety, for though not aspiring to the Stigmata, he can at least imitate Gemma's virtues.—(R.E.M.)