

humility, as well as the burning charity and zeal, of the holy Patriarch, are vividly pictured in a series of vignettes, or better in a succession of brush strokes which combine to produce a beautiful and life-like portrait. The brief stories of the other saints and holy sons of St. Dominic, which go to form the rest of the book, are much less detailed but have the same quality of vividness and beauty; Blessed Jordan, St. Albert the Great, St. Thomas Aquinas, St. Antoninus, St. Pius V, all these holy and typical Dominicans are made to live again within the small compass of less than forty pages. Cardinal Howard makes a brief, perhaps too brief, appearance; whilst Father Lacordaire and Father Thomas Burke, two of the greatest preachers of the nineteenth century, are etched with a very sure and informed hand, noticeable especially in the intermingling of holiness and humour so typical of Father Tom. Finally, there is a well-chosen summary of the life and work of Father Bede Jarrett, probably the most representative Dominican of our own day, to bring to a successful conclusion a very valuable contribution to the literature of the Order.

It would ill become us, however, to bring this review to an end without calling attention to the format and general production of the volume. In several of their recent publications Messrs. Sands have shown that they are determined to produce the best material in the best way. This present book is no exception. The printing and paper are admirable, the illustrations are well chosen and beautifully reproduced, and the dust-cover is most attractive, offering in all very good value for the modest price asked.

HILARY J. CARPENTER, O.P.

FATHER BROWN ON CHESTERTON. By Mgr. John O'Connor.  
(Burns, Oates; 5s.)

When Gilbert Chesterton first went to the Holy Land he found Jerusalem one morning deep in snow, as it had not been deep within the memory of man. Some of us who loved Gilbert Chesterton for his knightly defence both of little things and of old customs could not help seeing in this freak of tropical skies something more than an unwonted but casual fall of snow. We remembered, and we knew that God also remembered, Gilbert Chesterton's defence of the customary Christmas; not just the turkey and plum pudding Christmas of the dining room, but the snow-covered Bethlehems and the snow-bearded Santa Claus of the nursery Christmas. And we could "see amid the winter snow" that startled even the merchants of Jerusalem and the shepherds of Bethlehem, Christ the Child's welcome to one who always looked upon himself as a child who had wandered wondering amongst the prophets.

## NOTICES

For us it was God's remembering and grateful heart that gave this welcome of Christmas when a child from the far north came to Bethlehem.

But it was no less the remembering and grateful heart of God that gave to this child the writer of this book who was to welcome him into the Holy Land of the Church.

No such pilgrim of the birth had found his way into the little flock of English Catholics since Newman made that net of faith which was so quiet and emotionless as to seem not faith but only reason.

As if to authenticate the reality of their faith both these men knelt and confessed their sins to a legate from an old Catholic country. Littlemore has become one of England's pilgrim places because one night the genius of a great religious movement became a child of Alma Mater Ecclesia. But for some of us who have loved Gilbert Chesterton the ascetic monastery of Littlemore is hardly more sacred than the Railway Hotel, Beaconsfield, where on Sunday, July 30, 1922, Father John O'Connor officially announced the birth of a male child in the home of English Catholics.

The priest who welcomed Gilbert Chesterton into the Holy Land of his soul has secrets which must be forever untold. But the things he could tell and has told will make this little book live by the life not only of the hero of whom it tells but also of the teller who knew his hero as no other knew yet kept him always as his hero.

The things we of to-day once saw against their background of time and place are gradually being seen in "the glass of eternity." Even now that sight is allowing the little flock of English Catholics to realize how God was kind to us when He gave us Gilbert Chesterton. And every line in this book of Father Brown tells us how kind God was to Gilbert Chesterton when He gave him as "soul friend" the gifted, human-hearted priest, whose name if fitly quartered with his hero on the title page.

VINCENT MCNABB, O.P.

## NOTICES

COMPLINE according to the Dominican Rite. In Latin and English. (Blackfriars, Oxford. Cloth, 2s. post free.)

All those who have the privilege of attending Dominican Compline will welcome this handy edition which provides them not only with the ordinary Sunday Compline but also with the variations for week-days, for Feast days, and for the liturgical seasons of the year. They will be happy, too, to find the English translation of the psalms, hymns, etc., as well as of the rubrics governing the variations in their use. Incidentally several interesting translations from ancient sources have been