

## BLACKFRIARS

THE ENGLISH WAY. Studies in English Sanctity from St. Bede to Newman. By M. C. D'Arcy, S.J.; Hilaire Belloc; G. K. Chesterton; Christopher Dawson; Fr. Bede Jarrett, O.P.; Dom David Knowles; Fr. Aelfric Manson, O.P.; C. C. Martindale, S.J.; David Mathew; Gervase Mathew, O.P.; Michael Trappes-Lomax; Maisie Ward; E. I. Watkin; Douglas Woodruff. (Sheed & Ward; 7/6.)

Messrs. Sheed and Ward are to be congratulated. It is rarely indeed that we find holiness treated with the respect which it receives from the contributors to this book. There is very little attempt to gild the lily of English sanctity; private interpretations of a saint's actions are seldom forced upon the reader, and there is a commendable absence of that pious advertisement of virtue with which an alien tradition has made us too familiar. Such of these faults as occur are nearly all to be found in Fr. C. C. Martindale's essay on Edmund Campion—but Fr. Martindale, as he points out, has no particular sympathy for the English way of doing things.

Dr. David Mathew and Mr. G. K. Chesterton have given us masterly essays on John Fisher and Thomas More in which the great difference in character between the two is made no less clear than the unity of faith which led them to the same death. The study of Cardinal Newman by Fr. M. C. D'Arcy is excellent.

The other contributions all maintain a high standard, though the inclusion of an essay on Richard Crashaw is surprising, and the emphasis given by Mr. E. I. Watkin to his devotional poetry, surely the least English aspect of a not very typical Englishman, even more so.

Altogether an encouraging book.

C.B.

THE DOCTRINAL MISSION AND APOSTOLATE OF S. THERESE OF LISIEUX. By Fr. Benedict Williamson. *The Priesthood*. (Alexander Ouseley, Ltd.; 2 vols., 3/6 each.)

In response to the Pope's desire for a deeper study of 'little' St. Teresa's doctrinal teachings, Fr. Williamson has undertaken a series of twelve volumes. These first two contain simple (elementary, some may say), devout and practical advice to priests and those preparing for the priesthood, based on the teaching of St. Teresa. Chapters II—V are addressed rather to Catholic parents than to priests.

It seems surprising that the disciple of a Carmelite saint should have assigned no fixed time to mental prayer in his order of a priest's day.

M.B.