

BLACKFRIARS

IL RAGGUAGLIO 1938. (Istit. Prop. Libreria, Milan. Lire 12.)

In the ninth year of publication, this Annual is at once a survey, a sketch and a documentation of the output of Catholics in Italy in the realm of Art and Letters during the past year. Many important Catholic writers either write in it, or are written about, notably the Florentine group who produce the *Frontespizio*, Papini, Bargellini, Giuliotti, Giordani, etc., and including several priests. It is a synthesis of the effort of the Catholic literary and artistic movement in Italy at the present day. There is a series of articles on certain world-affairs that a Catholic thinker should think about: an historical note on God and Caesar is early Christian Rome, a criticism of the fashion of "race-consciousness," analyses of the problems of China and of Palestine; and the position of Spain is most fittingly represented by the full text of the Joint Pastoral of the Spanish Episcopate of last July (and it is good to have at hand this fine document). Among other such articles is a valuable one on the "Catholic Action" of Saint Charles Borromeo by religious instruction, and the new opportunities for the continuation of this spirit in modern Italy; and a note on the fresh trend of the Accademia d'Italia. Current Italian Catholic literary work is surveyed in several articles, and very interesting is the section (profusely illustrated) on modern art, chiefly sacred. Some lovely things—for instance, p. 59, 60, 67, 102. Some good wood-engraved tail-pieces. A Dominican is pleased to note some delicate drawings of Padre Pistarino as tail-pieces (pp. 139, 325, 346). Some writers and their work are sketched individually, sometimes by a skit, but several cartoons are lacking in taste. The last eighty pages are an exhaustive documentation: lists of Catholic publishing houses (also of music, for which the heading is missing after l.ii on p. 464), and their output (including quite a lot of translation—G.K.'s Autobiography for one); lists of Catholic writers, artists and musicians of Italy (with addresses). The many publishers' advertisements are useful. The whole gives an impression of a lot of work, recounted in a light vein and with a Christian humility, and is indicative of the refflorescence in modern Italy of Catholic Art and Letters, which is only too little known beyond the Alps.

SEBASTIAN BULLOUGH, O.P.

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THE CHURCH AND REUNION. By Fr. Vincent McNabb, O.P. (Burns, Oates; 6s.)

Fr. Vincent McNabb has gathered together articles written by him in various periodicals between 1902 and 1936, on questions concerning reunion. The result is a little book which is well worth

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reading. As regards the Roman primacy (that stumbling block!) he maintains the classic positions, and incidentally finds allies for the defence in men such as Bishop Westcott and Professor C. H. Turner. Withal, when speaking of Archbishop Davidson or the Free Churches there is in his words a tone which is all sympathy, friendliness, respect: would that such a tone might be found more often. Many points of secondary importance are touched upon, e.g., the excommunication of Queen Elizabeth: for this and similar points, Fr. V. McNabb's quiet and kindly apologetic should smooth away many a misunderstanding *Beati pacifici!* Blessed are the peacemakers!

M.-J. C.

OUR BLESSED LADY. By C. C. Martindale, S.J. (Sheed & Ward; 7s. 6d.)

Something of Ignatius, the soldier, and shall we add, something of Xavier the sailor authenticate the writer of this book as a true son of the first and own-brother of the second.

C. C. M. (Martindale) here shows himself almost as international as his "Blessed Lady." His opening sermon tells us incidentally that his battling for Jesus has sent him four times to Ceylon and two to Singapore. The rest of the *Orbis Terrarum* has been visited in equal proportions.

Something too of the modern fascination of the "movie" and the "talkie" is in the book; which will therefore add to the influence C. C. M.'s untiring pen now wields wherever English is spoken or understood.

V. McN.

THE PRAYERS OF THE MISSAL, II, Offertory Prayers and Post Communion. By C. C. Martindale, S.J. (Sheed & Ward; 2s. 6d.)

While the masters in Israel continue to haggle over minor points of theory, Fr. Martindale shows the way to *live* the liturgy. His purpose in this book is indicated in the introduction: to provide food for meditation, not a "straight" commentary. He succeeds in no small degree; the reader is inveigled into thinking about the points raised, for the many cross-references for which the author apologizes, are, in reality, so many devices (intentional or otherwise) to bring this about. Though the prayers are grouped in liturgical seasons no strain is imposed to extract a season spirit where this is absent. Their meaning is explained without distortion and we are persuaded to ponder it. It is good to know that there are more volumes to come.

G. A. M.

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LA VIE PECHERESSE. By H. D. Noble, O.P. (Paris: Lethielleux; 24 fr.)

In this, the fifth of a projected series of ten studies dealing with the moral teaching of St. Thomas, Père Noble considers the nature, causes and consequences of sin. Inasmuch as it follows closely the order of the treatise of the Summa *De Vitiis et Peccatis* (Ia IIae Qq. 71-89), the present volume will serve as a convenient commentary upon and expansion of the text of St. Thomas. As such it will be especially useful to the student of theology, whom it will help to arrive at a synthetic view of St. Thomas's detailed analysis of this complicated subject. The book however should have a wider appeal than merely to the seminarist and to the formal theologian. Its language is simple and non-technical and hence suited to the needs of the general reader. The last-named need not be repelled by the title, but on the other hand he will be disappointed if he expects to find in these pages a picturesque description of the various ways in which we may transgress the moral law. Père Noble, faithful to his purpose of presenting the doctrine of St. Thomas, avoids all that is exaggerated and sensational, and gives us a sober and clear account of what we may know for certain of that most mysterious yet common, essentially human yet always less than human act, which we call sin.

A. L'E.

EUROPEAN CIVILIZATION: Its Origin and Development. Vol. VI. (Oxford University Press; 25s.)

With the present volume *The History of European Civilization* comes to an end almost pathetically. It is said to be intended to cover the years between 1640 and 1914 and includes not only a detailed article on Paraguay but a notably patriotic survey of the history of mediæval Ireland. Though the standard of factual accuracy is not high the approach seems singularly orthodox, and the list of contributors includes the names of five priests carefully but inadequately disguised. Yet there are aspects of the volume which would interest any reader. Whole pages in the ingenuous contribution of Father Timothy Corcoran are repeated verbatim from an earlier article by Mr. Williams (cf. pp. 957 seq, pp. 789 seq). The names of the authors are different, but not only their phrases but even their facts are the same; both believe that Queen Katharine Howard was a daughter of the Duke of Norfolk. Yet it would be unjust to judge the whole volume from such slightly naive technique and its contains two contributions of some merit.

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CODE DE MORALE INTERNATIONALE. (Union Internationale d'Etudes Sociales.) (Editions Spes; 12 frs.)

The English translation of this work has already been noticed in *BLACKFRIARS*, and its importance and utility underlined. Political events may tempt us to feel that it is futile to hope for the reign of law; but we are bound to go on hoping, and it is plainly our urgent duty to be clear ourselves as to what line of conduct, in every problem, the principles of Christianity dictate. The difficulty of making a right judgment on any given situation needs no stressing; and the difficulty is due, as a rule, mainly to the impossibility of acquiring a full and accurate knowledge of the facts involved, present and past; but it may be due also to a lack of full and accurate grasp of principle, and it is here that this book is so valuable. It is not exhaustive; on individual points it might be possible to criticize its treatment; but it does give, strongly and clearly, the main lines of Christian doctrine in such a way as to emphasize the breadth, the supra-national character, of the Christian citizenship; and a recognition of this is after all the first step towards a possibility of right judgement in all particular cases.

G. V.

BOOKS RECEIVED

- ALLEN & UNWIN: *The Church and the World*, Cyril E. Hudson and Maurice B. Reckitt (7s. 6d.).
- ARCHIVES ESPAGNOLES (Paris): *La Religion dans l'Espagne de Franco* (12 frs.).
- BURNS OATES: *The Tragedy of Spain*, Dr. van Vollenhoven (1s.); *At the Bedside of the Sick: Precepts and Counsels for Hospital Nurses*, Mother Catherine de Jésus-Christ, tr. E. F. Peeler (5s.); *Miss Kate*, introduced by Herbert Thurston, S.J., epilogue by Enid Dinnis (3s. 6d.); *Runter's Gold*, Robert Earl (3s. 6d.); *Fifty Pounds Reward*, Alice M. Pullen (3s. 6d.); *Stolen Documents*, S. Beresford Lucas (3s. 6d.); *In Our Valley*, Vincent McNabb, O.P. (2s. 6d.); *Memories of Charles de Foucauld*, Georges Gorrée, tr. Donald Attwater (7s. 6d.); *Of Conversion, A Sermon to the Clergy* by St. Bernard of Clairvaux, ed. Watkin Williams (2s. 6d.); *Isaías*, Hubert van Zeller, O.S.B. (3s. 6d.).
- CATHOLIC SOCIAL GUILD (Oxford): *The War in the Far East, An Appeal to Men of Good Faith and Good Will*, Mgr. Paul Yu Ping, Vicar Apostolic of Nanking (2d.).
- CATHOLIC TRUTH SOCIETY: *The Doctrines of the Modernists (Encyclical "Pascendi" and Decree "Lamentabili")*, Pope Pius XI (9d.) and several pamphlets.
- CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY OF AMERICA (Washington, D.C.): *Lawlessness, Law and Sanction*, Miriam Theresa Rooney (pp. 176, n.p.).