

Book Reviews

author's sense—'classical,' it breathes with the same spirit as the writings of the Fathers, full of Scriptural phraseology and quotation.

F.M.

THE FRANCISCANS. By Fr. James, O.S.F.C. (Sheed & Ward; 2/6.)

This is the fourth volume to be published of *The Many Mansions* series on the religious orders. Fittingly has the work been entrusted to an eminent Franciscan, Fr. James O'Mahoney, O.S.F.C., the author of *The Desire of God in the Philosophy of St. Thomas*. In such hands the exposition of the spirit and ideals of the Order is wisely carried out. Notably does Fr. James stress the intimate link which has ever bound the Order to the Church. The Church cradled the Order in its infancy, and in no niggardly fashion has that early interest been, during seven centuries, repaid. Not quite so wholeheartedly as Fr. Devas, O.F.M., in his kindred volume, *The Franciscan Order*—surely the Ishmael to Fr. James' Isaac—but still clearly enough, does Fr. James endorse the view that reforms among the Franciscans were largely efforts at balance between the active and contemplative apostolate to which the Order is devoted. In the matter of the Franciscans and science, Fr. James, as we might expect, is particularly good. 'One of the highest forms of charity,' he writes, 'is that intellectual charity which divines, and essays to satisfy, the needs of the mind.' The book is somewhat marred by a few bad misprints, unusual in Sheed and Ward publications.

O.F.M.

THE HISTORY OF THE CREEDS. By F. J. Badcock, D.D. (Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge. Pp. xiv., 249; 12/6.)

Dr. Badcock has succeeded in writing on the Apostles', Nicene and Athanasian Creeds with such untrammelled frankness that he may endanger his welcome from the scholars.

He takes no time in coming to a frontal attack on 'the great names,' which we were expected to look upon as authority some years ago. The first words of his book are as follow: 'Thanks be to the vast erudition of Harnack and Kattenbusch a false literary pedigree has been invented for the Old Roman Creed These German scholars have been followed by Dr. Burn and Bishop Gibson Unless we are overborne by the