



**The Summa Contra Gentiles of St. Thomas Aquinas**, Books I-II. Translated by the English Dominican Fathers. Vol. I, pp. 214. Vol. II, pp. 305. \$3.25 each. Benziger, N. Y. C.

**Studies on God and His Creatures.** By Joseph Rickaby, S. J. Pp. 205. \$2.50. Longmans, Green, N. Y. C.

At a time when the philosophy of the Schools is experiencing a new awakening even in this country, the English Dominican Fathers' translation of the first two books of the "Summa Contra Gentiles" of St. Thomas Aquinas is most timely. To those happily acquainted with the translation of the "Summa Theologica" by the same able editors, the work will need no recommendation. The same scrupulous fidelity to the text which characterized the former translation is preserved throughout the entire two hundred and three chapters of the first two books. The Fathers were fortunate in having at hand the corrected Latin text of the Leonine Edition, published in 1918. This constitutes one of the work's several advantages over a similar attempt in the same field, made some twenty years ago by the Rev. Joseph Rickaby in a volume under the title "Of God and His Creatures," in which parts of the "Summa Contra Gentiles" were translated.

The questions treated by St. Thomas in the "Contra Gentiles" are not a dead issue. Oxford of today is still harassed by the same difficulties as Paris of the thirteenth century. Father Rickaby, S. J., in his own inimitable way has synthesized some of these difficulties in a collection of essays and dialogues entitled, "Studies on God and His Creatures." The essay on "Faith" is a masterpiece. Perhaps, nowhere in our language is the subject handled so ably; certainly it has never been treated more charmingly. In the dialogue, "Sosias" represents the learned master, "Eumenes," the eager disciple, or as the author tells us in the preface, "the gentle reader." No novice in dialectic is this "Eumenes." He is quick to grasp the point, responsive, and often displays keen powers of foresight. We suspect, however,

that he has never read Chap. XIII of the "Contra Gentiles." If he had, he would never have acquiesced in his master's attack on the validity of St. Thomas' proof from Motion for the existence of God. St. Thomas argues not from local motion, but from motion in the wider sense of any transition from potentiality to actuality, for he expressly defines the term "motion" as, "the act of that which is in potentiality, as such."

Again, we marvel that so keen a philosopher as Eumenes was satisfied to permit his learned master, when discussing the problem of creation, to offer as a substitute for the classical distinction of the Schools, "entitative and terminative," one which gives a less adequate explanation of the difficulty involved. Perhaps he was afraid of incurring the censure of the Platonic "raw Mind" which Father Rickaby mentions in his preface  
J. B. S.

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**Introductory Philosophy.** By Charles A. Dubray, S. M., Ph. D. Pp. 689. \$3.25. Longmans, Green, N. Y. C.

**A Manual of Neo-Scholastic Philosophy.** By Chas. R. Baschab, Ph. D. Pp. 452. \$2.25. B. Herder, St. Louis.

The first edition of Dr. Dubray's book received the highest praise from Catholic educators and the Catholic press. The second edition is even more praiseworthy since it contains all the good points of the first edition but is more complete. The whole field of scholastic philosophy is treated as extensively as is possible in a volume of its size. Disputed and subtle questions, which might confuse rather than instruct the beginner, are omitted. In clarity of exposition and expression it is a masterpiece.

Although primarily a text-book for use in Catholic colleges, its scope of usefulness is by no means limited to the classroom. It should be a boon to those of the Catholic laity who have been deprived of the opportunity of higher education and wish to become acquainted with Catholic philosophy. It is an ideal book, also, for those who having had a thorough course of philosophy desire to review the subject.

Dr. Baschab's book also covers the whole field of scholastic philosophy. The purpose of the author, as he tells us in the Foreword, was two-fold: to modernize and popularize scholastic philosophy. This he accomplishes by showing the harmony

existing between the latest findings of true science and philosophy, and by stressing the unity of the entire system. In connection with the latter point Dr. Baschab divides the subject matter of philosophy into three parts, Cosmology, Psychology and Metaphysics,—Logic and Ethics being treated as synthetic and teleological psychology. Although there is an advantage in treating the more abstract questions of Metaphysics after the exposition of Cosmology and Psychology, as in this arrangement, still it seems that the division of the older scholastics into Logic, Metaphysics, general and particular, and Moral philosophy should not be dismissed lightly.

However Dr. Baschab has succeeded in producing a book which fills the distinct need for a philosophy written in a popular style and taking into consideration the latest findings of science. It is a book which should appeal to the educated public in general and to Catholic students of philosophy and science in particular.

J. R. K.

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**Hints to Preachers.** By Rt. Rev. Msgr. Hugh T. Henry, Litt. D. Pp. 286. \$1.90. Benziger, N. Y. C.

While writing his well known work on rhetoric Lindley Murray confuted his good advice by his expression of the following canon: "A preposition is a bad word to end a sentence with." In like manner, manuals which purport to teach priests how to make sermons interesting quite often so far forget their theory that they fail to be interesting themselves. Msgr. Henry has recognized this fact, and in the preface to his "Hints to Preachers" has taken the space to state that one of his first cares in producing his homiletical hints was to strike an interesting note. He has succeeded in his design with that remarkable ease which bespeaks patient effort.

The tone of the book is conversational throughout, suggesting the armchair more than the platform. Of all things, there is nothing didactic about either the matter or the presentation of "Hints to Preachers." Its chatty diction conforms entirely with the method of the work, which is not a rigid exposition of a preconceived thesis, but rather a collation of the advice of many minds grouped beneath the conservative, gentle, and sometimes whimsical observations of the author.

Probably the most timely remarks of Msgr. Henry are contained in his chapters on the short and miniature sermons, the

object of the sermon, practical counsels and taking notes. The whole secret of short sermons in general is encased in this simple sentence: "The skeleton of the miniature sermon should exhibit divisions, indeed, but these should not be coordinate thoughts but rather phases of a single thought—" And on the object of the sermon: As a rule, the definite object is a conclusion drawn, not by the people, but by the preacher for them." Under practical counsels for preachers Msgr. Henry emphasized the advice of the Bishop of Ripon that the proper way to begin a sermon is not by reading, but by thinking; not by glutting the mind with facts, but by determining just what cavities of thought must be filled up with some one else's material. The very interesting and equally tantalizing question of taking notes receives much bright, human and intelligent consideration. Various methods of preserving extracts and indexing references come in for their meed of merit; but eventually the simple three by five card index obtains the palm. M. S.

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**Excellence in English.** By Frank H. Callan. Pp. 520. \$4.00 Devin-Adair, N. Y. C.

The ability fittingly to render into English one's own particular thoughts and ideas is the aspiration of every author and speaker. While each individual possesses his peculiar style of expression, it is the development of this gift for the attainment of the most effective results that demands serious consideration and study. It is one thing to be endowed with far-reaching knowledge of a definite subject and quite another efficaciously to impart wisdom to others. Practise alone is insufficient for the proper cultivation of literary style; it must be coupled with a study of our English classics.

Since this entails time and labor, a debt of gratitude is due to one who has had the foresight to simplify matters for us; who has undertaken the arduous task of collecting choice specimens of our classic literature to illustrate such important topics as the convincing writer, the art of interesting, aids to wit and humor, the secret of eloquence, gracefulness in speech, etc. When these examples have been grouped under headings that include every phase of style, preceded by a terse explanation of the distinct stylistic perfection to be considered, followed by a brief demonstration of the manner in which these passages meet the requirements, and terminated by practical rules for guidance, we

have a work that is both readable and helpful. Just this is what Frank H. Callan has done in his "Excellence in English"—a volume we recommend to our teaching Sisters and Brothers as well as to all who seek to improve their use of the English language.

R. K.

**Enchanted Aisles.** By Alexander Woollcott. Pp. 260. \$2.50. Putnam, N. Y. C.

**Sunlight and Song.** By Maria Jeritza. Pp. 262. \$3.00. Appleton, N. Y. C.

Alexander Woollcott is probably our best dramatic critic. His long years of experience give his writings a depth and thoroughness that would be unfair to expect from our younger critics, while his keen appreciation and sympathetic evaluation of the player and his art make him more trustworthy than the severe Alan Dale. "Enchanted Aisles" is the ingenious title under which Mr. Woollcott has collected a number of his most charming essays, many of which previously appeared in various magazines and newspapers. The subject matter is divided under two headings,—Enthusiasms and Resentments. The former are vivid and colorful sketches of actors, artists, authors, restaurant keepers and plays; while the latter are, for the most part, humorous jibes at some of the nonsensical and futuristic tendencies that have invaded our theater in the last four or five years.

Merely a cursory glance over the list of subjects treated in "Enchanted Aisles" would be enough to convince the reader that the author has a truly admirable breadth of outlook. An excellent appreciation of Eleanora Duse is followed by a scholarly discussion of the genius of Irving Berlin; the brilliancy of Bernhardt has not blinded this critic's eyes to the cleverness of Chaplin. In this way Woollcott proves himself a universal critic. He never becomes tiresome but leaves us—like little Oliver—wanting more.

This desire for more finds satisfaction in "Sunlight and Song," the autobiography of Maria Jeritza. It was a happy circumstance that determined this queen of song to write down her experiences and reminiscences in the heyday of her success. No European prima donna has received a more enthusiastic reception or been accorded a greater ovation than this charming lady. However, in "Sunlight and Song" we find only passing mention of the fiery La Tosca and the pathetically appealing Margarita; for here we meet a nervous and thoroughly human

young woman making the sign of the cross, as she stands in the wings of the great Metropolitan, praying that she may please "those dear Americans."

Jeritza paints for us the high-lights of her eventful career as a singer. She tells of Franz Josef, the much maligned Frau Katherine Schratt and the royal court of Vienna as she actually knew them; giving us quite a different impression from that which we were apt to glean from our press some five years ago. It is an inspiring tale, this life story of Jeritza, the ambitious little girl of quaint old Olmutz, who through great faith in her own ability, tireless effort, competent direction and a good life achieved great success in her delicate profession. The narrative sparkles with a wealth of humorous incidents. We imagine some of the occupants of the "diamond horseshoe" will be shocked when they learn that their favorite soprano loves to cook, and that her favorite movie actor is Jackie Coogan; but such a frank confession can only serve to endear her all the more to real Americans.

Such books as "Enchanted Aisles" and "Sunlight and Song" will do more to obtain an intelligent evaluation of the theater, to secure a more sympathetic attitude towards the artists and thus raise the moral tone of our stage than all the spasmodic, rash and ill-advised efforts of would-be reformers. G. C.

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**Erasmus.** By Preserved Smith, Ph. D., Litt. D. Pp. 479. \$4.00. Harper & Bros., N. Y. C.

This is an attempt to show the lines of union and of demarcation between the Renaissance and the Reformation. The problem is interesting because it brings in history, literature, ethics and theology. Dr. Smith has attempted to solve it by a study of the peer of Nordic Humanists, Erasmus. At the same time, the author wishes to assign this much-maligned scholar, his rightful place in history.

The author has gathered much information on his subject and has coordinated it in scholarly fashion. Erasmus is found to be the forerunner of modern "undogmatic Christianity," the wrecker of superstition, the cold rationalist, whose love of the aesthetic made him blind to dogma and discipline.

Yet Dr. Smith fails to answer fully his main question. He suggests that Humanists, as represented by Erasmus, did not join hands with the Reformers on account of inborn cowardice,

love of his own skin, and the revulsion of the aesthete from strife. These hints do not satisfy. There were deeper reasons.

Humanists were all that the author paints them to be, but at their worst, they never approached the audacity of the Reformers. Their guilt was of a lower order. Laxity is not revolt, corruption is not rebellion, criticism is not treason. At first, Luther had the support of Humanists for they saw in him an apostle of needed reform; but later when they saw in him the angel of destruction, the ravisher of all that is holy and true, they bolted—they refused to abet the destruction of fundamental Christianity. This is the solution of the puzzle; but of course Protestants will not admit it, for they still think that Luther purified Christianity, whereas he only muddied the waters.

Outside of this, Dr. Smith's new contribution is an eminent achievement. The versatile mind of Erasmus and the problems of that turbulent age are depicted with a master's hand. Flashes of Bl. Thomas More and other contemporaries illumine the work. The reader will be enriched with fresher and broader ideas on the history of the greatest convulsion that Christianity has yet experienced.

P. C. P.

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**Memoirs of Missionary Priests.** By Bp. Challoner. Revised by John H. Pollen, S. J. Pp. 642. \$5.00. Kenedy, N. Y. C.

Although reason must be considered as a necessary element, no conversion to the Catholic Church is possible without faith. Men may admire her beauty, they may be inspired by the constancy of her martyrs, but faith is something more. Newman himself has said: "All the logic in the world would not have made me move faster towards Rome than I did"; and his case was no exception. But how are we to account for the numerous conversions in England today? Paradoxical though it may seem, they are the blessings of persecution. The reason may be found in those years of oppression, when men and women, heroic souls, shed their blood in testimony of their belief; for the blood of martyrs has always been the seed of the Church.

In order to get a better appreciation of the second period of persecution in England, dating from 1577 to 1684, we must read Bp. Challoner's "Memoirs." Perhaps no book has contributed more in the way of a detailed and graphic history of those who suffered for the faith. Outlawed for no other crime than that they were "Papists," they were willing to endure any punish-

ment, often the most diabolical, rather than deny their religion; they preferred "to obey God rather than man." And in whatever sense we regard them, they were true "witnesses" to Christ. They forsook all that life could offer, and they died with a prayer on their lips, a prayer for the land they loved, "Jesus, convert England! Jesus, have mercy on this country!" C. B. M.

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**Taking the Literary Pulse.** By Joseph Collins, M. D. Pp. 317. \$3.00. Doran, N. Y. C.

Physicians have not particularly distinguished themselves in literary criticism for reasons that are apparent, though the application of expert medical knowledge to some of our fashionable novels might furnish us with interesting details from a new angle of critical vision. Joseph Collins, over and above his technical experience in medicine, is a wide-awake psychologist with eyes open to every modern tendency. He first startled the literary world by his remarkable success, "The Doctor Looks at Literature," in which he diagnosed the literary symptoms of a group of famous writers, such as Joyce, Lawrence, Proust, Rebecca West; in this latest volume, "Taking the Literary Pulse," he directs attention to a new group, including Sherwood Anderson, Frank Swinnerton, M. Marguerite, and others.

Many of the questions of pure medicine or psychology have been handled by the modern author. Heredity, insanity, neurotic diseases, psychoanalysis, have been worked into novel form with an interest and a background that is impossible to science. But we find many inaccuracies. By his skillful faculty of penetration, Dr. Collins reveals the seriousness of some of these errors. He is concerned particularly with the sex-novel since so much of the light reading today is built around that theme. We have long been waiting for some one to "show up" the sex-perverts who are now besporting themselves in the literary field. Dr. Collins does this well. His criticism is generally sane and refreshing. The people and literature of this country badly need a spiritual revival; but psychoanalysis, as a method of treatment for run-down nerves and "funny ideas" is a failure, the doctor observes. The psychoanalytic novel is going out of fashion, with no one sorry for its demise. Dr. Collins is to be encouraged if we may be assured of more studies of this nature in the sick-room of literature, so long as there are so many chronic cases in the wards.

E. B.



**Works of William Butler Yeats.** Complete in 6 volumes. Each vol., \$2.50. Also an edition de luxe, limited to 250 copies. Each vol., \$5.00. Macmillan Co., N. Y. C.

A new uniform edition of the works of the famous Irish poet recently awarded the Nobel prize for literature. The six volumes will include his complete writings, rearranged and revised. The first and second volumes, "Later Poems," and "Plays in Prose and Verse," now offered to the public, contain among various groups of verse, "The Wind Among the Reeds," "In the Seven Woods," "The Shadowy Waters," "The Wild Swans at Coole," and "Michael Roberts and the Dancer," with such plays as "Cathleen ni Houlihan," "The Hour Glass," "On Baile's Strand," and "Deirdre."

Mr. Yeats is so well known that there is hardly need to bring forth our small appreciation of the admirable qualities found in his poetry. It is sufficient to say that he has captured the wild and elusive loveliness of authentic Celtic poetry and given it to us again in the smoothly running rhythm of his verse. Among the shorter poems we find such pearls as "He Wishes for the Cloths of Heaven," "The Host of the Air," "The Withering of the Boughs," and "In the Seven Woods."

In reading the plays we are carried back on the magic rug of dreams to the ancient and golden days of the heroes of Erin, bright with the forms of richly garmented kings and queens, and aglow with the romance and chivalry of fair faced women and their gallant warrior lovers. At times we find ourselves on the battle field amid the musical clash of singing swords, and then we are borne far away to the ends of the earth on shadowy waters, to be charmed into love at the sweet sounds of an enchanted lyre. We pause for a while at glittering courts stained with princely intrigue, there to bewail the tragic despair of thwarted love, or to sympathise at the woful lack of appreciation meted to a dying singer of songs.

The intensely mystical and imaginative characteristics of the writings of Mr. Yeats appeal for the greater part only to those with a similarly gifted temperament. He is in truth a poet of poets, and the delicacy and exquisite texture of his work brings home to us again the realization that poetry resides in a world of its own not to be entered except by him whom nature has endowed with the magical password. For try as we may, unless we are honey-sweet with the true love of beauty we cannot

expect to grasp or appreciate the esthetic dreamings of the dreamer of dreams. Mr. Yeats is such, being played upon by every passing mood and fancy and sending forth the modulations of his lovely music in rhyme with singular purity of thought and expression.

G. H.

### DIGEST OF RECENT BOOKS

**SUMMER FICTION:** We can suggest no better books for summer reading than the novels of Robert Hugh Benson, four of which have recently been published in a popular priced edition. A posthumous work, **Loneliness?**, is in many respects the most powerful and touching of all his contributions, although it can hardly equal the matchless style and knowledge of the heart displayed in **Initiation**. The series is completed by **Come Rack! Come Rope!** and **Oddsfish!**, leaders in the field of historical romance. Here is an excellent opportunity for all readers to make the acquaintance of one of our greatest Catholic novelists. (Kenedy. Each at \$1.25).

In **Mariflor**, by Concha Espina, we see a rival of Hemon's "Maria Chapdelaine." American readers are here introduced to a class practically unknown in our fiction,—the peasant people of the Spanish highlands. Through a remarkable gift of sympathy the writer has brought to the surface the rugged, somber beauty concealed beneath the apparently drab and uneventful lives of these neglected folk; and has succeeded in transferring to the printed page that peculiar charm of the peasant which Millet has so strikingly depicted in his "Angelus." In its original dress this novel was crowned by the Spanish Academy, and it has lost none of its high literary quality in translation. (Macmillan. \$2.50).

**The Education of Peter**, by John Wiley, is a story of undergraduate life at Yale, and a pleasing contrast to some of the severe arraignments of college life which are glutting the market. Peter Carey, carefully reared in select circles of New England aristocracy, goes to Yale, and his four years at college form the subject of the story. What happened in that time is summed up by the author: ". . . the other things he had learned had sunk much deeper—things not included in the curriculum." Despite one or two somewhat exaggerated incidents, the story is diverting, instructing and full of narrative interest. (Stokes. \$2.00). Another novelist worth watching is Fulton Oursler. His maiden effort, **Behold This Dreamer**, is rich in promise to an extent rarely met with in first novels. There is evidenced a fine command of words, a vivid imagination, a discerning insight into the intricacies of the human mind and a power of portraying his characters with photographic sharpness of detail. Oursler tells the story of a young painter in quest of the ideal, resolutely refusing to commercialize his art by pandering to the taste of the multitude. And yet,—O physician, heal thyself! The author has not had the courage of his hero. He cannot resist the temptation to make his book palatable to those who care for nothing unless seasoned with a sprinkling of sex. Oursler's art really has no need of such condiment. (Macaulay. \$2.00).

You will discover high entertainment in **There is a Tide**, by J. C. Snaith. Mame Durrance, a typical "go-getter" from Cowbarn, Iowa, sallies forth to conquer New York and London with the weapons of journalism. After many reverses she "wangles herself a billet" in the best

English society, and catches at the flood the tide that leads on to fortune. Mr. Snaith possesses a flair for human comedy of the right sort; his witticisms are not malicious or backstairs, but honest and wholesome. To describe his work in the striking words of his heroine, "It's the goods. There's not one word we'll ever have to wish away. The folks aren't saints, the folks aren't but there ain't a line that's mean." (Appleton. \$2.00).

George Birmingham really has a well-balanced sense of the humorous, despite the fact that in **King Tommy** he has masked his talents. Tempted by the vogue of tales of international intrigue he has quit his native Irish haunts for the diplomatic battling ground of Central Europe, with the result that he has come a cropper. His rather sleazy plot hinges upon a case of mistaken identity. The Reverend Thomas Norheys, summering in Berlin, is mistaken for the Marquis of Norheys, chosen King of Lystria. Complications ensue, but in the end Tommy acquires the crown and a princess to boot, much to the satisfaction of all concerned. We meet with frequent flashes of Birmingham's old time wit, but taken on the whole, the story scarcely squares with what we have a right to expect from a capable novelist. (Bobbs-Merrill. \$2.00).

Much more satisfying is **The Callahans and the Murphys**, a series of quaint and delightful sketches of two Irish-American families,—humble, likeable people. Dealing with the feminine point of view, it is brimming over with chit-chat, comedy and pathos, and spiced with the elusive charm of Kathleen Norris at her best. Mrs. Norris has at times fallen from grace in the eyes of her fellow religionists when she has consented to dance to the piping of a false public; but this innocent and chucklesome bit of fiction will be quite effective in restoring her to her place among the genuine Catholic novelists. (Doubleday, Page. \$2.00).

The struggles of the ex-service man are most strikingly recounted in **A Conqueror Passes**, Larry Barretto's first novel. Mr. Barretto has gone through the mill himself and knows whereof he speaks, with the result that his document is free from unwarranted sentimentality and exaggerated pessimism. His very human presentation of his hero arouses our sympathy at the outset so that we eagerly follow him in his many calamities, and breathe a sigh of relief when all ends well. (Little, Brown. \$2.00). Wayland Wells Williams deals less directly with the aftermath of the war in **I, The King**. His tale is concerned with the adventures of a rich young man in search of happiness, which for him lies only in responsibility. The author has spared no effort to provide a checkered career for his hero,—graduate of Yale, ensign in the Navy, King of a South Sea Isle, idler in New York's sportiest set, and finally, business man in a small Connecticut town. The high ethical standards of Mr. Williams are most refreshing and commendable. "I, The King" should be a popular novel; however it will never be that, because its subtle appeal must be lost on an audience incapable of appreciating its finer qualities. (Stokes. \$2.00).

Once there was a gentleman, by name Procrustes, with most ingenious ideas in the matter of beds. No doubt you recall the story—but never mind. Isabel Clarke has favored her readers with another novel, **Anna Nugent**. Anna, an orphan, leaves her Italian villa and is received into the home of English relatives. Before long she falls in love with Michael, the elder son, but his mother's ambitions prove an obstacle to the match. She returns to Italy; misfortune visits the Nugent family; Anna saves the day and of course marries Michael—presumably to live happily ever after. The story is sweetened by two secondary love plots; at least two conversions are effected by Miss Clarke and we are treated to the usual descriptions of beautiful Italy. "Anna Nugent" is readable, but it is a far

cry from "By the Blue River," "The Elstones" and "Tressider's Sister." We have nothing but praise for the craftsmanship and high purpose of Miss Clarke's books, but their unswerving sameness in plot and character portrayal is not likely to assist in effacing the popular stigma attached to the "Catholic novel." (Benziger. \$2.00).

The aim of Harold Rocky in **This Woman** was to censure the transgressions of the post-war smart set, and to call to task over impetuous and self-righteous, clerical critics. He has adhered meticulously to the second part of his program, but his arraignment is somewhat too sweeping to prove convincing. In depicting the excesses of modern society he has not minced his words, and has even gone out of his way to drag in several hectic, but irrelevant scenes. The author displays many ear-marks of the successful writer; his descriptions are graphic and animated, and he has learned the knack of pungent phraseology. A little more attention to punctuation, coupled with a stiff training in ethical niceties will do much to extirpate glaring defects in style and doctrine. (Macaulay. \$2.00). **The Street of Many Arches** is out-and-out melodrama of the most lurid type. Limehouse and India; leering Chinamen and a virtuous white girl; passion and intrigue—everything, in fact, that goes into the concoction of this savory dish. Joan Conquest and Gwen Lally collaborated in mixing the ingredients, and the fact that the finished product is under-done seems to bear out the adage concerning a superfluity of cooks. (Macaulay. \$2.00).

In **South of the Rio Grande** an international struggle for the possession of rich oil fields shares the center of interest with the amatory ups and downs of the two chief characters. The plot is full of action and the scenes shift rapidly from Canada to England and Mexico. Not an exceptional yarn, this of Laurence Clarke's, but a harmless substitute for a few hours of boredom. (Macaulay. \$1.75). **Captain Shapely** is a breath from the past,—that delightful past, when novels lived up to their name. Harold Brighouse evidently believes that there is still a market for wholesome tales, since he has steered his course clear of sex problems and given us a jolly yarn of adventure and romance. Captain Shapely, the most dashing rogue that ever scoured the long, long road from London Town to Chester in the days of good Queen Anne, is a fascinating character. His escapades on the road and in society; his affairs of the heart and his eventful reform, conjure up memories of the days that have gone. (McBride. \$2.00).

Peter Clark Macfarlane also belongs to the school of clean, virile fiction, a fact well vouched for by his latest book, **Tongues of Flame**. Upon his return from over-seas, "Hellfire" Harrington settled down to a peaceful life as a West Coast lawyer; but it was not long before he was embroiled in a stupendous political conflict. His ideals compelled him to champion the under-dogs, the Siwash Indians, who were being victimized by a greedy corporation. Many disasters and misadventures ensue, and for a while it seems that the zero hour has come for Harrington,—but he finally comes out on top. Of course the story is borne along to its denouement by a love plot, which is handled most satisfactorily. (Cosmopolitan. \$2.00).

As a creator of humorous negro types Robert McBlair well deserves to share the laurels of Wiley and Cohen. His sympathetic knowledge of the droll aspect of darky life is much in evidence in **Mr. Fish Kelly**, an hilarious but inoffensive book. Fish, the doleful, modeled his life upon his mammy's advice, "Don't never erritate a lion. Ef a lion got yo' haid in his mouf, tek it out real e-e-easy." The domineering "Lawyer" Little and the father of his future spouse, gave him plenty of opportunity to exer-

cise his inborn caution. But fortune had a habit of smiling upon Fish, despite his pessimistic outlook on life, and at last he turned the tables and escaped from the evil influence of his persecutors. (Appleton. \$2.00).

Murder, mystery and romance each find a place in **Never Fire First**, by James French Dorrance. The great wide spaces of the Northwest provide an excellent background for the doings of the scarlet-coated troopers of the Royal Mounted, one of whom is the hero of this typically "North-western" story which depicts unusual possibilities even for traditionally varied careers. (Macaulay, \$1.75).

**RELIGION, PHILOSOPHY**: In the face of the periodic revival of certain calumnies against the Church, one wonders at the reputation of the nine-lived cat. Sir Bertram Windle is not the first to ask himself why these gratuitous accusations die so hard. These puzzling reflections have fathered the present little volume of essays **On Miracles and Some Other Matters**. They present a straightforward appeal to the human sense of fairness, without a trace of cringing; and reveal the logical mind of one who has himself found the truth, and who would fain share it with mankind. (Benziger. \$2.25).

**Venial Sin**, from the pen of the author of "Thoughts for all Times," contains safe and practical principles to inaugurate a life of close union with God. We say "to inaugurate" because the will to avoid venial sin is but the beginning of the spiritual life, and farther than this the book does not extend. Bishop Vaughan here as elsewhere, makes good use of the facts of nature to illustrate the truths of revelation. (Benziger. \$1.35). Rev. O. Hardman, D. D., gives us a scientific history of ascetic practices by way of a comparative study of religions in **The Ideals of Asceticism**. A more or less natural explanation is advanced for the facts related, but the author makes a splendid effort to bring forth asceticism as manifested in the life of Christ. In applying asceticism to the social problems of the day he has struck the note of many liberal Protestants. He is sincere and more insistence upon the manifest influence of the supernatural in ascetic life would raise his work above reproach. (Macmillan. \$2.00).

**Seven Questions in Dispute** is the answer of William Jennings Bryan to the modernists. A staunch fundamentalist and a great power in the Protestant Church, he is certainly entitled to a hearing. His fundamental question is the inspiration of the Bible. Mr. Bryan is an ardent believer even in verbal inspiration, but without an infallible authority to which he may appeal, his argument is lacking the essential and all-sufficient reason for accepting the whole Bible as the inspired word of God. He then proceeds to show from the Scriptures the necessity of believing in the Deity of Christ, the Virgin Birth, the Blood Atonement, the Bodily Resurrection of Jesus and the Miracles of Our Lord, finishing with a discussion of the Origin of Man. Protestants ought to find in this book many reasons for retaining their belief in at least some of the doctrines of Christianity. (Revell. \$1.25).

Canon Milet, O. S. B., highly esteemed as a writer on theological subjects, has essayed a difficult task in **La Divine Eucharistie**,—a popular exposition of the Eucharistic Mystery. But his natural genius and long experience have stood him in good stead, so that his study bids fair to become a classic in its field. Writing particularly for religious and lay lovers of Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament, he has eschewed unprofitable speculative discussions; insisting rather on practical aspects, both dogmatic and ascetical, which may serve to instruct and edify. (Lethielleux, Paris. 10 fr.).

The latest volume of Father Lasance, **Our Lady Book**, embodies all the excellent qualities of his previous works. The sublime prerogatives of our Blessed Mother are explained in a novel fashion; holy traditions, passages from the Fathers and mystical writers, together with prayers, meditations and other devotions in her honor combine to make this a most worthy tribute to the Mother of God. (Benziger. \$1.85 to \$4.75). In **Les Origines du Rosaire**, Father Faucher, O. P., presents a brief but valuable epitome of a controversy that arises from the lack of a clear cut distinction between the tradition and the history of this popular devotion. The learned Dominican assigns to each its proper place and value, and proves that history supports the tradition that Saint Dominic was the founder of the Rosary in its essential form. (l'Annee Dominicaine, Paris. 2.50 fr.).

Father Spalding, S. J., has edited in book form the unique collection of **Letters on Marriage** which have been appearing in "The Queen's Work" for the past three years. They are full of information for boys and girls face to face with the problems of matrimony. (Benziger. \$1.25).

Catholic, Protestant and Jew are all interested in the worker and his work. Rev. Joseph Husslein, S. J., sought a meeting place where all Scripture readers might calmly consider these matters, and he has found it in the Sacred Books of the Old Testament. In **Bible and Labor** he sets before his mixed audience the social significance of the Bible, and the spiritual guidance it offers through its many inspiring examples. The book affords abundant material for seekers of social ideals. While mainly devoted to an interpretation of the labor history of the Old Testament, the teachings of Christ on labor problems, as recorded in the New Testament, have been included in the final chapter. (Macmillan. \$2.25).

Is it a thankless task to harangue our people on the evils of modern dancing? Pere Vuillermet, O. P., thinks not, for truth is never spoken in vain. His course of lectures on **Les Catholiques et les Danses nouvelles**, delivered in the Church of St. Maurice at Lille, has just been published in brochure form for the benefit of a larger public. Catholic doctrine on this subject is considered most calmly and sanely without any hint of uncalled-for antagonism to dancing as such. American pastors may learn from his treatment the method of approaching a delicate subject. (Lethielleux, Paris. 2 fr.).

The Most Reverend Alban Goodier, S. J., Archbishop of Bombay, has published an excellent series of ten meditations on **The Risen Jesus**. His Grace has hit upon a striking method of presenting his considerations, introducing each subject with corresponding Gospel references in rhythmical form. The apparitions of Our Saviour after His Resurrection have always been a rich mine for spiritual thought, and the work of the Archbishop will be of immense value in bringing to the surface their hidden significance. (Kenedy. \$1.35).

Rev. S. Parkes Cadman presents a keen and penetrating analysis of present political conditions and problems in their relation to the Church in **Christianity and the State**. Dr. Cadman's principles are sound for they are those Christian principles which solved the difficulties of the Middle Ages; his superstructure is poorly erected, for here he has followed his own line of theory and attempted to apply these same principles to the relations of the modern state and the Protestant Church. He has stated his question with remarkable lucidity and the chapters on "The Two Voices" and "The Citizens and the State" evince acute insight into the heart of the difficulty. The number of historic misrepresentations and misinterpretations appalls us. Most of these have been in circulation since the sixteenth century; some few bearing on Scripture have a more modern

tang, but all must be laid to a point of view obstinately maintained rather than to prejudice. (Macmillan. \$2.50).

**BIOGRAPHY, HISTORY:** Michael Williams has brought out a new edition of **The High Romance**, his spiritual autobiography which first appeared some five years ago. A fresh chapter has been added in which Mr. Williams recounts his recent adventures, makes a few pregnant remarks on outstanding issues of the day, and replies to critics who doubted the sincerity of this "literary vagabond." American Catholics need no introduction to this book, nor to its delightful author. During these past years his pen had been most active in the service of Church and Country; his fame has spread far and wide, and he has won an enviable place in the hearts of our people. A warm welcome awaits "The High Romance." (Macmillan. \$2.25).

In Giovanni Papini's "Life of Christ" the author tells us that some years ago he wrote another book "to describe the melancholy life of a man who wished for a moment to become God." The book to which he referred is **The Failure**, which has just appeared in English dress. Here we find portrayed the anguishing struggles of a mind groping for the truth, for "one, small, tiny atom of unquestionable truth." It is a confession of revolt against all authority; a confession of an absolute egoist; a confession of failure from a man who tried to be a God. Written ten years before his eyes were opened to the truth of the greater Failure on Calvary, Papini's autobiography is the key to a better understanding of his now famous "Life of Christ." (Harcourt, Brace. \$2.00).

**Die helige Agnes von Montepulciano**, by P. Angelus Walz, O. P. In twelve concise and well-written chapters the author tells us of the life of this wonderful Saint of the Second Order of Dominicans, emphasizing the historical without slighting the mystical side of her character. We have every reason to believe that this little work will fully satisfy the urgent demands of the author's countrymen and all Dominicans for a new life-picture of our great Saint. (Collegio Angelico, Rome).

Gilbert K. Chesterton has added to the perplexity of his critics by his study of **St. Francis of Assisi**, "from the position of the modern outsider and enquirer." He has not attempted a biographical sketch, but seems to desire merely to whet the modern mind for further acquaintance with his subject. His remarkable skill in word-play is much in evidence, and most unexpectedly we come upon delicious specimens of the paradoxes for which G. K. C. is justly famous. Mr. Chesterton warns us that only a saint can do justice to the life of a saint, and yet he has succeeded in his task exceptionally well. (Doran. \$1.25).

The fact that **La Vie d'Henri Planchat** has gone through nine editions since its first publication in 1871, is worthy testimony to the admiration of the Catholics of France for this beloved "priest of the people." His massacre at the hands of the communards dealt a severe blow to the French Church, and especially to the Congregation of St. Vincent de Paul. Both as parish priest and as military chaplain during the siege of Paris in 1870, he displayed the soul and spirit of the true apostle, the zealous hunter of souls. The telling of his story has not suffered in the hands of his confrere, Maurice Maignen. (Tequi, Paris. 6 fr.).

A life of **Louis Pasteur** in popular form comes to us from the pen of Dr. S. J. Holmes, Professor of Zoology in the University of California. The author makes no claim to originality; he is content to have achieved a happy blending of the earlier and more pretentious biographies by Vallery-Radot, Roux and Duclaux. The book is straightforward, simple

and readable. It avoids technical terms and makes free use of illustrations that really illustrate. The appearance of such a work is most opportune at a time when an attempt is being made to filch from this great scientist the glory of his achievements. (Harcourt, Brace. \$1.75).

**Ireland's Important and Heroic Part in America's Independence and Development**, despite its ponderous title and modest bulk, has well accomplished the aim of its author,—to show the tremendous part actually played by Ireland and Irishmen in the American Revolution. Too long have our American histories paraded the "Scotch-Irish" myth as fact, and the role of full-blooded Irishmen and their descendants is but gradually being recognized by unbiased historians. The first part of the book deals with the aid given to the Colonies by Ireland in Europe, while the second part contains the story of the Irishmen in the Colonies in the winning of American independence. References to contemporary documents enhance the value of the book, but for convenience these might well have been made foot-notes, rather than included in the text. Father Frank L. Reynolds of Chicago, the author, is a prominent member of several active historical societies. (John P. Daleiden Co., Chicago. \$1.60).

*LITERATURE, POETRY:* Hilaire Belloc has given us many books "on" this, that and other things, but we have been waiting for a study "on" the author himself. Patrick Braybrooke supplies our wants in **Some Thoughts on Hilaire Belloc**, a critical diagnosis of the man himself and his more important books. In the preface, the author, an English newspaper man, states that his work is the product of his scanty leisure—a circumstance to be remembered in appraising its value. Mr. Braybrooke has only praise for the purely literary work of his subject. With the views of Mr. Belloc the publicist, he has little sympathy; while that strange individual, Mr. Belloc, the Catholic apologist, perturbs him greatly. One flaw mars an otherwise excellent work. Its strictures on indulgences, and the statement that "the Catholic Church is very largely dependent on a twisted reading of history for much of its existence" force us to conclude that he has neither a just appreciation of Catholic teaching nor an acquaintance with recent advances in historical science. However, those who desire to know what Mr. Belloc's opponents think of him will find this work interesting reading. (Lippincott. \$2.50).

Mr. Braybrooke would have been even more roiled, had he read **The Contrast**, Hilaire Belloc's latest offering, in which his Catholic point of view is very much in the foreground. According to the author's own statement his thesis is "that the New World is wholly alien to the Old." We need not be convinced that we of the United States are different from our European neighbors. The best service this book gives is a well directed but heavily padded blow at Anglo-Americanism. Mr. Belloc presents America's merits to his countrymen in glowing terms; but yet we get the impression that he wants us to overhear these praises. However, the personality of the book is not all irritating except in such passages where we feel that the author is striving to flatter America. (McBride. \$2.50).

Another Catholic essayist, Agnes Repplier, has been more discerning in the choice of topics for discussion. **Under Dispute** deals with a variety of vexing problems, literary, political, religious and others which from time-beyond memory have gone the round between pulpit and platform. In considering such subjects as the Puritan, the timidity and humor of Americans, modern preaching and education, Miss Repplier presents her case



with conviction but at the same time is always tolerant of the views of others. It is just this quality which has endeared her to a large audience,—her desire for fair play and the absence of any hint of cock-sureness in treating open questions. The paper on "The Idolatrous Dog" will interest all who have read "The Fireside Sphinx." In the latter book the cat was portrayed for us as one of the nicest things in the world; the fact that the dog has not fared so well in the hands of Miss Repplier is but further proof of her refreshingly feminine point of view. (Houghton, Mifflin. \$2.00).

In **The Principles of Journalism** Casper S. Yost has attempted to give the basic laws of newspaper writing and editing. His work is clear, fair to a remarkable degree and with gentle suggestions here and there of culture and a fine ethical sense. One defect must be remarked,—the book is altogether too fundamental. To a newspaper man it is shop talk; to one with a few newspaper friends it is stale conversation; but possibly to those free from such vices it may hold some lure. Thus, where he might brighten up his pages with selections from the fund of actual stories which a veteran newspaper man must possess, he offers hypothetical cases, which are very vapid. Mr. Yost must be respected for his lofty conception of his profession. Were his high ideals actual facts, the "game" would be one of the surest routes to Heaven. (Appleton. \$1.50).

Laurence Housman gives us four plays of the early Franciscan legend in **Followers of St. Francis**. Historical events from the life of the saint and his followers are molded into dainty and delightful drama, which combines most agreeably depth of feeling and religious sincerity. The author is natural in thought and expression, and manifests a keen insight into spiritual affairs. On the question of Indulgences, quite prominent in the first of the plays, some of Mr. Housman's statements are open to misinterpretation. Indulgences are not "mere showings, elementary and superfluous . . ." However, we do not find in this book any traces of intentional distortion of Catholic doctrine. (Small, Maynard. \$2.00).

The same theme is treated in **The Little Poor Man**, the play which won for Harry Lee the prize for Poetic Drama given by the Poetry Society of America. This is a cleverly written drama, graceful in expression, sympathetic and beautiful in treatment. The fact that the author seems to be more at home in the lighter passages of his work may be due to his employment of free verse, the rapid movement of which is hardly suitable to clothe profound thought. The conception of sanctity and mysticism conveyed by the author is too emotional and too airy to harmonize with the solid and philosophical Catholic conception. But "The Little Poor Man" would be well worth reading were it only for the exquisite song of "the Golden Birds." (Dutton. \$2.00).

Camilla Doyle's **Poems** sing of the old Canals of England. They do not seem to strike the heart and lack the quiet tone of deeper and more meditative poetry. They are original, but yet this originality is not wholly pleasant. (Appleton. \$1.00). Stephen Gwynn's **Collected Poems** shed new light on the versatile genius of the renowned Irish politician, and will appeal to all lovers of Ireland and her cause. He is at his best in his songs on love, but he also treats of patriotism, nature and old legends. If we had to choose from among this collection our choice would fall to the beautiful "If All of My Ships Come Home." (Appleton. \$1.50).

In **The Enchanted Mesa and Other Poems**, Glenn Ward Dresbach displays the same graceful handling of meter and words which characterized his "In Colors of the West." Although his poems draw their inspiration from the desert lands of the Southwest, their fresh and buoyant nature

offers a universal appeal. Mr. Dresbach is a real poet and one whose work will be widely known in the future. (Holt. \$1.50).

There has just been issued a new edition of **A Sailor's Garland**, the anthology of sea poems selected and edited by John Masefield. It is only in comparatively recent times that English poets have realized the beauty of the sea; the earlier poets from Chaucer to Keats seem to have hated the sea and sea-life, and were thus prevented from doing justice to theme. For this reason the majority of Mr. Masefield's selections have been culled from the works of later writers, although several early specimens of high quality have not been neglected. Ballads illustrating sea history and the lives and loves of sailors are most prominent, but there are special sections devoted to poems on the beauty and wonder of the sea, and a critical study of the one song of the true sailor, the chanty. (Macmillan. \$2.50).

### SOME RECENT PUBLICATIONS

- Via Vitae.** By a Sister of Charity. A beautiful morality-play, portraying the struggles of the soul in attaining heaven, and the important role of the theological virtues. (Oxford University Press. \$0.75).
- Her Little Way.** By Rev. John P. Clarke. A concise explanation of the Little Flower's method of leading souls to God. Small in size but rich in helpful reflections. (Benziger. \$1.00).
- Religion—Fourth Course.** By Roderick MacEachen, D. D. The fourth of this novel series of handbooks for students and teachers, in which the problem method is applied to the expression of religion and the principles of brotherly love. (Macmillan).
- Stories in School.** By the Editor of "The Sower." Outlines of stories from the Old and New Testaments, and from Church History, providing material for those who follow the "Sower Scheme" in education. (Benziger. \$1.75).
- Dans la Chambre du Malade.** By Canon Decorne. "Man is an apprentice whose master is suffering." Lofty considerations on the true nature of sickness, with practical consolations, counsels and reminiscences for the solace of invalids. (Tequi, Paris. 7 fr.).
- L'Esthetique du Stabat.** By Cardinal Marini. Students of liturgy and ecclesiastical poetry who are not versed in Italian, will welcome this French translation of a priceless commentary on the most beautiful canticle ever penned in honor of Our Lady of Sorrows. (Tequi, Paris. 10 fr.).
- Dan's Best Enemy.** By Robert Holland, S. J. "Reardon Rah" again to the front in an exciting round of school and field adventures. Every bit as interesting as its predecessor, and just the thing for the boy or girl on vacation. (Benziger. \$1.25).
- Tricksy Maidens.** By Rev. Andrew Klarmann, A. M. An innocent comedy suitable for school commencements. (Pustet).
- Fridays with Jesus Crucified.** By Rev. C. McNeiry, C. SS. R. An historical collection of the devotions of saints and holy persons to the Cross. (Benziger. \$0.60).
- The Three Hours' Agony.** By Rev. A. M. Skelly, O. P. Reflections on the "Seven Last Words" for private devotion. (I. C. T. S. Five cents).
- Pour etre un Caractere.** By Abbe Rouzic. Moral force through will power,—a stale theme in fresh and convincing dress. (Lethilleux, Paris. 7 fr.).

- A Jesus-Hostie par Marie.** By Abbe Henri Lanier. Considerations on devotion to the Blessed Sacrament, with and through Mary. (Tequi, Paris. 1 fr.).
- Le Retraite du Madame.** By Abbe Davenne. The first of a series of three works treating of the obligations of the married woman. This first volume, entitled "L'Ascension," is addressed to young matrons, and presents their duties to husband, home and children. (Lethielleux, Paris).
- La Premiere Communion de Jeanne d'Arc.** By Elie Maire. Devotional and historical studies on St. Joan of Arc's first Communion, for the edification of first communicants. (Lethielleux, Paris. 2 fr.).
- The Vespéral** is the latest addition to the "Liturgy for Layfolk" series, containing the entire Vespers and Compline Offices for each day of the year, both in Latin and English. In addition to the regulation Commons and Prayer there is a supplement devoted to the Benediction rite and the hymns and litanies of the various English-speaking countries. (Kenedy. \$3.00).
- The Hound of Heaven.** A descriptive booklet of the famous Music Drama recently presented by the Dominican Fathers of San Francisco. (St. Francis Press, San Francisco).
- The Red Beacon.** By Concha Espina. The realistic story of Dulce Nombre, the miller's daughter to whom poverty played the villain. Simplicity of plot and beauty of description are the outstanding marks in the works of this Spanish novelist. Those who enjoyed "Mariflor" will find this newest translation every bit as fascinating as the former. (Appleton. \$2.00).
- Catechism of the Vows.** By Rev. Peter Cotel, S. J. A new translation of a famous work, revised according to the New Canon Law. Every religious should have a copy of this invaluable little work. (Benziger. \$0.50).

