

BOOK NOTICES

The Psalms Made Easy, by Father Rickaby, S.J. Burns, Oates, Washbourne, London; 3/- net.)

Here is a little pocket-book that will be welcome to priests who want a handy key to puzzles met with when reading the Psalms of the Divine Office. The Psalms are taken in the order in which they occur in the Breviary, and every phrase likely to be difficult of interpretation is dealt with briefly and clearly.

The Love of the Sacred Heart: illustrated by St. Margaret Mary and the Blessed John Eudes. (Burns, Oates, Washbourne, London; 3/6 net.)

In a time when charity has grown cold and the sole hope of the weary world lies in a revival of the spirit of Christ, one can find no better reading than a book about devotion to the Sacred Heart. This volume of spiritual thoughts is sure to be welcomed by devout Catholics. It contains lessons of inestimable value for the present time.

Marriage and Motherhood, by Alice, Lady Lovat. (Burns, Oates, Washbourne, London; 6/- net.)

Here is a wise book written, not by a student and a theorist but by a Christian mother who has brought up children for God on true Christian lines. God made the world at the beginning but He left the destiny of individuals and nations in the hands of men and women, and the tone and character of a generation depend humanly speaking on the mothers of the race. Lady Lovat recognises that truth, and her book is a practical handbook that ought to be given to every young wife in these days of sorry and foolish experiments with education and training. If politicians and those who elect them in New Zealand had been brought up on the divinely appointed rules which are the foundations of Lady Lovat's teaching this Dominion would not be the unchristian state it is to-day. And if we are ever to arise from the mire it will only be when mothers recognise that the first step must be proper training of children in homes modelled on the Home of Nazareth. You cannot give to a bride a more useful present than this book.

The Rule of St. Benedict, a commentary by the Right Rev. Dom Daul Delatte. Translated by Dom Justin McCann. (Burns, Oates, Washbourne, London; 21/- net.)

Long centuries ago Gregory the Great wrote: "The man of God, Benedict, among the many wonderful works that made him famous in the world, was also conspicuous for his teaching; for he wrote a rule for monks, remarkable for discretion and rich in instruction. If any one desires to know more deeply the life and character of the man, he may find in the ordinances of that rule the exact image of his whole government: for the holy man cannot possibly have taught otherwise than as he lived." In the years that have passed since these words were penned the Rule has been famous throughout Europe. It reflects the moral beauty of St. Benedict's character, and it is the ripe fruit of a grand Christian tradition. The rule has had immeasurable influence on civilisation during the centuries since Benedict prayed and studied among the mountains around Subiaco. He who wrote it was inspired by the glory of God and his aim was to guide souls straight to God. But the man who fled from the temptations of Rome had the Roman spirit of order and lucidity, and the stamp of Roman culture is on his work. The scholarly commentary we have before us is an admirable contribution to the study of the history and the origin of the rule. To students of history it has its own appeal, but to all who are concerned with the knowledge of God and the advancement of His Kingdom on earth this volume will be profitable. Reading it brought us back in thought to old days when we stayed with St. Benedict's monks in his own Monasteries at Subiaco and Monte Cassino; and study of the rule will bring men again to the principles of the past from which they have wandered afar now, and with sad results.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS

G.A.E.—We do not think the headlines of the Otago D.T.'s are set up by the patients in Seacliff. Internal evidence rather suggests the editor.

P.L. (and others whom it may concern).—When you send in an item of news that you expect us to publish please go to the trouble of preparing it for publication properly. Scraps of newspapers, notes in pencil, vague jottings with a request that the editor should fill in the blanks have henceforth no chance whatever of publication. If your notice is worth publishing it is worth your while attending to it properly. To do so is not our business. Again, some correspondents think that Lloyd George has declared stops, commas, semi-colons, and so forth, illegal; others keep them in a pepper-castor and spread them liberally on their MS. To another class of offenders we wish to say that seventy times seven times have we told you that the editor has nothing to do with the business department and that he will be in no way responsible for business letters sent to him.

J.F.—When we received your first letter we made the sort of remarks to those concerned that you probably expected us to make on your behalf. We are now pleased to see that our breath was not wasted, and if you are content we also may say

Pugnacimus etiam, et non sine gloria.

With reference to your last letter, we beg to say that it received the proper consideration in the proper quarter, as you desired. A Happy Easter to you, as Johnny Cummins said to the magistrate who fined him for smashing the railway gates.

SUBSCRIBER.—You ought to get *Political Economy*, by C. Devas. There is no sounder book. Others that you would find useful are Ryan's *Distributive Justice*; Elder's *Socialism*; Husslein's *Democratic Industry*. If we followed our own inclination we would have many more articles than we have about such subjects. Unfortunately the number of our readers who take an intelligent interest in these problems is small. The *Tablet* has to try to meet the wishes of readers of all sorts—children and old people, sinners and saints. So that it would be vain to expect it to be exactly what any given individual would like it to be. Indeed, all newspapers are more or less in the nature of compromises.

J.L.—Don't worry about Cardinal Bourne's opinions. If he had uttered one word of protest when Lloyd George arrested Archbishop Mannix he might expect some consideration from Irish Catholics. Like every other Tory Catholic he is incapable of gratitude to the people who saved him from slavery and built his churches.

STUDENT.—We have seen Luther's *Table Talk* (Tischreden) in German but not in English. It is a very coarse book, but it is honest enough at times. For instance, he admits the failure of his so-called Reformation when he says: "The world grows worse and worse and becomes more and more wicked every day. Men are now more given to revenge, more avaricious, more devoid of mercy, less modest, and more incorrigible; in fine, more wicked than in the Papacy." Other "reformers" bear this out. Bucer says: "The greater part of the people seem to have embraced the gospel [of the Reformation] only to shake off the yoke of discipline, etc., and to live at their pleasure enjoying their lust and lawless appetite without control." And, of his own preachers, Calvin says: "The pastors, yes, the pastors themselves who mount the pulpit, . . . are at the present time the most shameful examples of waywardness and other vices." How gratified these gentlemen would be had they lived to see a Council of Churches legislating concerning racing weights in New Zealand!

It is a waste of time to grasp an opportunity unless you know what to do with it.

W. F. SHORT,

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Every description of Monumental Work undertaken in latest and up-to-date style.