

I, the pretty stories (still in the Breviary) which used to cluster around that Pope are all gone, and we are simply told 'nothing is known of his life or death.' But the later Biographies go more into detail, though always concise, judicial and selective in treatment. There is no special pleading, no uncritical white-washing, only Leo XIII's love of historical truth, and something of Baron von Pastor's accuracy in setting it forth. Where a saintly Pope goes seriously wrong in his policy or is harsh in administration, the author courageously says so; where a Pope of admittedly faulty private life has ruled wisely and well in his official capacity, he is given due credit for it. The scales are evenly held.

Among the hundreds of facts presented, we have noticed singularly few errors; there is one, however, on p. 289, where our English Catholic Relief Bill of 1778 is assigned to a Pontificate which had ended four years previously. We could have wished that some of the modern Popes had been treated more sympathetically and appreciatively, notably Pius VII, the first Pope to call forth from his flock warm personal affection as distinguished from that mere reverence for high office which had hitherto been customary. The volume closes with a very up-to-date notice of the new Pope, Pius XII, whom the writer holds to be the 258th Roman Pontiff, although most authorities number him as the 262nd. But these differences in catalogue probably arise from the inclusion or exclusion of some of the 'Anti-Popes,' it being sometimes by no means clear who are to be reckoned as such.

ROBERT BRACEY, O.P.

## NOTICES

'AND WAS CRUCIFIED.' By Barbara Lucas. (Heinemann; 5s.)

This is an essay on the Crucifixion as a central factor in human life. It is in no sense a theological treatise, but it provides an essentially Catholic perspective for freedom and suffering and joy. Spontaneous, realist, and sane, it never loses its actuality. For Barbara Lucas is notable among modern English writers for her power of conveying the undertones of human feeling in reaction to environment. In this study her more abstract analyses are varied by passages of descriptive prose—a shop assistant's morning in the book department, a middle-aged woman dieting, which illustrate as well as anything she has written her perception of the full nuances of each human situation. At times the very spontaneity of her treatment makes

the lines of her thought seem loosely linked, and it might not be difficult to discover small points to criticise. But that would be a petty reaction to a talent which combines the capacity to find the full flavour of common living, an apparently intuitive recognition of the interweaving of supernatural and commonplace and the power to convey both in a book of only 129 pages.

G.M.

**THE WOMAN WHO WAS POOR.** By Léon Bloy. Translated by I. J. Collins. (Sheed & Ward; 8s. 6d.)

'A Contemporary Novel of the French Eighties' is the translator's sub-title, and the 'period' note dominates the translation. Given that the book is translatable at all, it was presumably the only thing to do with it; but somehow Bloy does not seem himself in Victorian English. But of the ingenuity of the translator's work there can be no doubt, and it may be hoped that it will bring Bloy's great novel to the notice of many who would otherwise never read it.

I.S.

### BOOKS RECEIVED

- ALDEN PRESS (Oxford): *National Unity for World Leadership*, James Ashton (6d.).
- AMERICAN BOOK COMPANY (New York): *Economics and Society*, John F. Cronin, Ph.D. (\$2.50).
- BATSFORD: *The Land of France*, Ralph Dutton and Lord Holden (illus.) (8s. 6d.).
- BLOOD & GAY (Paris): *Options sur Demain*, Paul Archambault, etc. (Coll. La Nouvelle Journée) (18 frs.).
- BODLEY HEAD (John Lane): *The Crisis in Physics*, Christopher Caudwell, introd. Professor H. Levy (7s. 6d.); *The Divine Comedy of Dante*, Translation and Notes by John D. Sinclair: Vol. I., *Inferno* (10s. 6d.); Vol. II, *Purgatorio* (10s. 6d.).
- BOOKSHELF (THE): *Spring Comes Again; A Farmer's Philosophy*, Jorian Jenks (1s.).
- BURNS OATES: *Sonnets on the Psalms*, Rev. Canice Donleavy (5s.); *Marriage*, Bishop von Streng (3s. 6d.); *Learn of Me*, Rev. J. Kearney, C.S.Sp. (6s.).
- CRDAM (Casa Editrice Dott. Antonio Milani) (Padua): *Dall' Uomo a Dio*, Bernadini Varisco, ed. Enrico Castelli & Giulio Alliney (L. 40); *La Seconda Dottrina della Scienza* (1801); *Darstellung der Wissenschaftslehre aus dem Jahre 1801*, Johann Gottlieb Fichte [German text, and Italian translation by] Adriano Tilgher (L. 35).
- CHATTO & WINDUS: *Greek Memories*, Compton Mackenzie (10s. 6d.).
- DENT: *The Life of Jesus*, Conrad Noel (cheap edn. 4s. 6d.); *Jesus the Heretic*, Conrad Noel (5s.); *Catalan France*, Basil Collier, drawings by Helen Kapp (18s.).
- DRSCLÉE DE BROUWER (Paris, Bruges): *Les Comédies de William Shakespeare*, traduction de Pierre Messiaen (80 frs.); *Quatre Essais sur l'Esprit dans sa Condition Charnelle*, Jacques Maritain (Bibliothèque