

the heights of the mystic way. It is as spiritual yet as practical and practicable as anyone could wish. A similar volume in English would fill a great need.

It is a pity the print of the text is poor and that of the introduction so small as to deter any reader whose eyesight is not of the best.

S. M. ALBERT, O.P.

DE LA SALLE. By W. J. Battersby. (Longmans; 12s. 6d.)

It is with St John Baptist De La Salle as an educational reformer and pioneer, rather than as a saint, that this book deals. English writers on education have hitherto largely neglected the importance of De La Salle's work and influence, yet the Order which he founded is now the largest teaching order in the world. He was the first to organise the education of poor children in an efficient manner, realising as he did the need for a supply of trained teachers. The author fully vindicates the saint's claim to be the founder of the first teachers' training establishment. He was also the pioneer in France of vernacular instruction, of milder disciplinary methods, and of that supposedly modern institution, school meals.

Poverty, humility and determination were the qualities which, in spite of early difficulties—the opposition of ecclesiastical superiors and of vested interests, such as the Writing Masters' guild—ensured the ultimate success of the Brothers of the Christian Schools; and the author makes an interesting comparison between Mme de Maintenon's richly endowed academy at St-Cyr and the humble beginnings of De La Salle's Order. For the saint's historical background is emphasised throughout the book: his lifetime coincided with the Grand Siècle of Louis XIV, with its triumphs, military and literary, and its swarms of starving poor. It was in the service of the latter that De La Salle renounced wealth and position, devoting his fortune to their spiritual and material welfare.

This book cannot fail to be of interest to all students of education as well as to a wider public who will find therein a fascinating account of a great personality in a great age.

Mr A. C. F. Beales has contributed an eloquent Foreword in which he shows how far in advance of educational reformers in this country St John Baptist De La Salle was.

S. A. H. WEETMAN.

SAINTS AND THEIR EMBLEMS IN ENGLISH CHURCHES. By R. L. P. Milburn. (Oxford University Press; 12s. 6d.)

Mr Milburn gives brief biographies of some hundred-and-fifty saints with notes on their representations in medieval carvings and windows in England. The vagaries of popular taste—in saints as in other matters—is unaccountable, so that Gildard and Uncumber earn places while others more authentic remain outside or are said to lack pictorial record. A useful introduction expounds the idea