

Ballerini, in what they say about *dignitas*, are only citing St. Thomas, and from the identical article which the author uses so frequently in his argument. He uses that article of St. Thomas for the doctrine that 'greater interior perfection is required of the priest than of the religious,' but we have not found in his pages a plain recognition of the fact that St. Thomas is there comparing a priest with a non-priest. Now, if the author's argument in this book is to have any actuality at all, it should be a comparison of the secular priest with the regular *priest*. But, as we have said already, such comparisons are odious, and we have found this book, so far as it deals in them, distasteful. The reader will see that we have been seriously distracted from the main argument of the book; we admit that we have, but we plead the most extenuating circumstances.

J.M.

A FORGOTTEN PSALTER AND OTHER ESSAYS. By Richard Runciman Terry. (Oxford University Press; 7/6).

Whoever sets out to write about music must beware of becoming the mere specialist writing on his own particular subject. He will be read by the trained musician; hence he must possess real depth of knowledge, scholarship and technical skill. But we are all musical nowadays, even though we are not all musicians, and the writer on music must perforce think of us all, whether we be experts or amateurs, trained or untrained.

Sir Richard Terry combines scholarship, experience and literary grace, and he carries his learning so lightly, and so humane and universal are his interests that his appeal is as wide as life. It is well known that he is one of our greatest authorities on Tudor Music, seen here in the essays '*English and Italian Polyphony*,' '*Some unpublished Tallis*,' '*John Merbecke*,'—it is interesting to learn that this renowned gentleman gave up writing music at an early age on account of his Protestant convictions and took to controversy, proving among other things that the priesthood disappeared with the Mosaic Law. Also, that his Communion service is not plainchant, as it is so often sung, but was written with notes having different time values. That the author's scope lies far beyond Tudor times we see in '*The Troubadour in fact and fiction*,' '*Samuel Sebastian Wesley*,' and the essay that gives its title to the book. The Forgotten Psalter is the Scotch one of 1635, much neglected by musical editors, and containing many original and

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beautiful tunes. Criticism of a telling and trenchant kind is here, in 'Why is Church Music so bad?' and 'Church Music and Popular Fallacies.' Once and for all is the old snake scotched that sighs for the 'good old Catholic Masses,'—they were really Lutheran in origin? 'Music as a factor in Education' should prick the consciences of our larger schools.

Who can resist the attraction of 'Sailor Shanties' (not Chanties)? Here is a book for every kind of music lover; all can read and understand. There is only one highly technical essay in the book 'Early Belgian Composers,' and in it is the only error, a small omission discoverable by the careful reader, in an otherwise faultlessly printed book.

F.M.

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO SAINT MARK. By the Very Reverend M. J. Lagrange, O.P. Authorised translation from the French. (London: Burns, Oates & Washbourne, Ltd.; 5/-.)

Père Lagrange published in 1922 a little work on Saint Mark's Gospel giving, for a wider circle of readers, the fruits of his big commentary without the technical and erudite studies that produced them. We are here given a translation of this work, and it deserved to be translated. Just over a year ago the late Mgr. Batiffol, reviewing different works of Père Lagrange, spoke of it as a little masterpiece, and wondered why it was not more widely known. A little masterpiece it certainly is. In form it is a short running commentary on the Gospel text, of which the sole aim is to enable the reader to understand that text, not to furnish him with meditations upon it; the text, once understood, may be safely left to have its own effect on the reader. In reviewing the original work on its first appearance we said we had nothing to compare with it in English, and, as far as we know, that is still true. It is well, then, that it has now been made accessible to English readers in what seems to be an excellent translation.

L.W.

CATHOLIC SOCIAL PRINCIPLES. By Father Lewis Watt, S.J., B.Sc. (Econ.). (Burns, Oates & Washbourne Ltd.)

The price of this book is 1/6, and not 2/6 as was stated in a notice of the book in our last issue.