

collected). P. 137, 'the practice prevailed of not admitting the public to the offertory at these masses, and not to give them communion'; p. 144, 'Peter Cantor,' p. 145, 'Peter Chantre'; p. 183, 'Joannes A. S. Thoma.'

We may add that the publishers have since published the first essay of the above work separately at the price of half-a-crown under the title of *The Mystery of Faith, An Outline*.

THE HOUSE OF THE TEMPLE. By Frederick W. Ryan. (Burns, Oates and Washbourne; pp. xvi, 346; 25/-.)

This handsome and well illustrated volume deals with the last days of the sovereignty at Malta of the Knights Hospitallers of St. John. The 'House of the Temple' was the Headquarters and Embassy of the Order in Paris, granted to them on the fall of the Templars. Whereas in London the Hospitallers kept their original house at Clerkenwell and let the Temple to the lawyers, in Paris the Temple became their principal centre; a large fortified domain which by the time of the French Revolution had been encircled by the growth of the city and was in the middle of a busy quarter. It was a strange survival of mediaevalism, a fortress of a foreign power in the centre of the capital. We follow the story of its last days, ending with the event which was to make the House immortal; the coming of the Royal Family to be imprisoned in its central tower. The second half of the book deals in like manner with the fortunes of the Order at Malta itself, the death of the great De Rohan, who if he had lived on in full vigour might perhaps have saved the Order; the succession, as Grand Master, of the weak von Hompesch, whose German nationality, made him a disastrous choice at that moment; and finally the capture of the Island in the interests of the Republic by Buonaparte and the expulsion of the Knights, only to be followed, almost immediately, after the Battle of the Nile, by a voluntary surrender to the British, whose hold over the Island has lasted ever since.

It is a study of the great Order in its decadence and at the end of its real power, but a story, nevertheless, full of interest. Perhaps some day Mr. Ryan will go on to write another book of even greater interest which would put before us the work done by the Hospitallers for the sick through the centuries; at Rhodes first and afterwards at Malta; a work which was faithfully continued to the last, even in the days when so much else of their rule was being neglected at the close of the 18th century.

A.S.B.