

## NOTICES

Y LLITHIAU SUL. (C.T.S. of Wales, Charles Street, Cardiff; 3s.)

This new translation into Welsh of the Sunday epistles and gospels is to be most warmly welcomed. The version is vigorous and plain, but yet manages to preserve enough of the traditional sonorosity of the Welsh Bible to make its public reading impressive.

Together with the *Llyfr Gweddi* and the *Emynau Mynyw* of a few years back, the present book represents a serious recognition of the needs of Welsh Catholics and, still more important, of those who look to the Church from without and wonder why it seems so foreign. It is a matter for thankfulness that the small body of Welsh Catholics contains scholars who can give to the presentation of the faith the inestimable advantage of a Welsh writing that need fear no comparison.

The value of a Catholic version of the Scriptures in Welsh has long been realised; even in the gloomiest days of persecution Welsh prayer-books appeared (usually printed abroad) which contained extracts from the gospels. The reproach that Catholics are in some way hostile to the reading of the Bible is not so dead as might be supposed. Anyone who reads the correspondence columns of Welsh periodicals will be struck by it. Perhaps after the War we may hope for a translation of the New Testament as a whole. In the meantime this anthology (for such it is) is most welcome. We hope that it may even encourage those whose business it is to learn Welsh to get on with that job.

ILLTUD EVANS, O.P.

THE LIBRARIAN AND HIS COMMITTEE. By Ernest A. Savage. (Grafton and Co.; 12s. 6d.)

The wisdom of the professional demands professional appreciation (so different is doing a job from theorising about how it ought to be done), but it does not need a specialist to recognise good sense and good humour. Mr. Savage gives good measure of both, and his book might be read with advantage by many besides public librarians. For example, he is excellent on the language of reports, on the misuse of statistics, on bureaucratic writing and muddled thinking, on jargon, stock phrases and officialese, on staff questions, and on a number of other matters which are not peculiar to the subject with which he is concerned. Further, no one can read him without learning a great deal about library administration and the relations of the librarian, not only with his committee, but with the public whom he serves. It is surely much to be desired that citizens should take an intelligent interest in the very important work of our public libraries. Nobody, least of all Mr. Savage, would say that there

was no room for improvement, but it is not too much to say that on the whole the general public has had better service from libraries than it deserves.

A. E. H. SWINSTEAD.

MOTHER MARY PHILOMENA JULIANA MOREL. By a Servite Nun. (Sands; 5s.)

Apart from two good books on the early days of the Order, Fr. Soulier's *St. Philip Benizi* and Fr. Ledoux' *The Seven Holy Founders*, both now out of print and scarce, there is hardly anything about the Servites in English. This Life of Mother Philomena is a pleasant and edifying addition to the small store; not ambitious from a biographer's point of view, but very useful for those who are interested in things Servite and for those many more who like to make the acquaintance of saintly souls through easy spiritual reading.

The Servite nuns first came to England in 1850, more than six hundred years after the foundation of the Order. They were the first Religious to wear their habit in English streets since the Reformation. 'On their appearance the driver of a crowded omnibus stopped his vehicle to gaze at such an unwonted sight, whilst the outside passengers stood up and cheered the Sisters loudly.' They deserved it. The Apostolic Delegate says in the Foreword: 'Here we have souls cast in heroic mould who had the spirit of the psalmist when he said *In Deo meo transgrediar murum.*' The writer has preserved, perhaps unconsciously, something of the delightful, even quaint simplicity which pervades all the oral reminiscences of the first English Servites.

GERARD M. CORR, O.S.M.

HORLOGE DE PARIS, HEURE DE BERLIN; par Thomas Kernan (Editions de l'Arbre; \$1.50.)

This translation into French of 'Report on France' is published in Canada. It is a pity that it crossed the Atlantic. Frenchmen are no more anxious than most people to wash their dirty linen in public, and they will not welcome the opportunity of reading in their own language a demonstration of the efficiency with which an American fashion journalist can do it for them. The German methods of economic penetration are too well known for any but the most exactly documented statement to be of value. All that is new in this book is the readiness with which the author generalises from particular instances of French deficiency which have come within the orbit of his own experience.

C.B.