

Blackfriars

means all renunciations and rending of hearts. Bound up with the subtly woven main plot are side plots and scenes in plenty which relieve the tension of the wrought up mind.

The normal course of human love is portrayed in the episode which results in the marriage of the Viceroy of Naples and Dona Musica. This provides the occasion for one scene of special beauty and tranquillity in the Church of St. Nicholas at Prague, sustained by four saints and Dona Musica. The pedantry of pseudo-scholars and scientists is ridiculed by turns in scenes of dry humour and unblushing parody. Horse-play, high poetic flights, discussions on art, scenes suggestive of mystery or horror all rub shoulders; while *dramatis personae* as diverse and unexpected as a Chinaman, St. James, a Negress, the Moon, a Japanese, and a Double Shadow all contribute towards the unfolding and understanding of the central theme. In fact every sort of incongruity is used in this versatile and ultra-modern Play.

The conspicuous success achieved by the translator, Father John O'Connor, in rendering not only the sense but the atmosphere of all the windings of this many moods drama, may be judged from the words of Claudel, which as he is himself a master of the English tongue, are high praise indeed, 'it reads as well as the original, perhaps better.'

The Satin Slipper is emphatically a book to buy, one reading does not do it justice, and it can be read and re-read and read again, and each reading will yield a further delight and a deeper significance.

K.M.K.

A SHEED AND WARD ANTHOLOGY : FIFTY BOOKS IN ONE. (Sheed & Ward; 5/-).

The publishers describe this book unblushingly as window-dressing. It is a display of samples, therefore variegated so as to entice every taste and of course, as a collection of samples should, it represents the publishers' estimate of their best: it is a kind of *crème de la crème*. The arrangement follows no particular principle of selection. The result is a very engaging anthology built on the lines of a literary bran tub or a lucky bag. You may dip in or, if you like, 'tune in' to Marshal Foch, Beachcomber, Papini or any of the other thirty-eight strangely assorted writers. A big book for a small sum, guaranteed not to bore because it changes the subject as often as fifty-six times.