

Book Reviews

logical, uncompromising French mind, preaches that Our Lady should be given all the honour allowed to Her by theologians, and not merely some of it.

'*Through Mary, with Mary, in Mary and for Mary*'—that is the most express route to the throne of the King of Kings.

The Bishop of Menevia's foreword—dare we label it 'racy'?—should encourage the timid Catholic, with the 'inferiority complex,' as his Lordship styles it, to cultivate a fuller, more whole-hearted, practical devotion to the great Mother of God and men.

R.L.H.

LAS COSTUMBRES ASTURIANAS, SU SIGNIFICACION Y SUS ORIGENES.

By Constantino Cabal. (48 Serrano, Madrid, 1931, paper, 5 pesetas).

This work in his native language by one of the foremost exponents of folk-lore in present-day Spain deals particularly with the customs of the peasantry in the province of the Asturias and recalls the fascinating chronicles of Spanish popular customs and traditions of Fernan Caballero more than half a century ago. Moreover, in the words of the eminent author A. Palacio Valdés it is ' . . . a conscientious as well as a delightful study of which our [Spanish] literature offers not many examples . . . it will have to be consulted now and hereafter by all those who aspire to understand or to depict the peasantry of the Asturias . . . '

F.M.

THE RACE PROBLEM IN AFRICA. The Merttens Lecture, 1931.

By Charles Roden Buxton, M.P. (The Hogarth Press; 1/-.)

Mr. Buxton is a warm-hearted man, with a sense of duty to his fellow man—and he seems to think that the duty of a Christian is to make black men live like white men. Throughout the lecture he is telling himself that if the Black African only had a chance—that is, if his country only had a climate like those parts inhabited by the Society of Friends, and had been rich in coal and iron—the Bantu would now be at the same high level of the Protestant Evangelical. He mourns the missing opportunities and environment as though it were Christian duty to supply them.

Such conclusions are self-condemned. The form of government and the types of institutions that will be best suited to any particular race are secrets hidden in the heart of that race. The most that any 'superior' race has any right to do is to