

REVIEWS

failure—it seems that it was not long before Jean discovered it in his “impatience.” (See Luke ix, 53; Acts i, 6.)

He is passionately and suppliantly in love; but his love has a tremendous dignity in being inseparably one with his love of God. He woos with his Christian soul, serenades his lady who is Danish and hitherto Protestant with pæans of Catholic faith and love, requiring that the altar steps should be their genuine meeting-place. Perhaps nowhere else in biographic literature can the Catholic ideal of marriage be found so marvellously proclaimed.

The translator has carried out a bold undertaking triumphantly. (One may mildly question the precise accuracy of the word “Guess,” p. 156.)

RICHARD KEHOE, O.P.

MISCELLANEOUS

ADVENTURE OF THE AMETHYST. By Cecily Hallack. Illustrated by Rosemary de Souza. (Macmillan; 7/6.)

Though this book is something very different from a “thriller” it is most thrilling. It is a story, packed with humour and action, about very real and attractive characters; it is a complete Christian and Catholic apologetic, covering the whole ground from the existence of God to the veneration of the Saints; and the story and the apologetic are one. It is this unity that makes the book so extremely valuable, if not indeed unique.

The amethyst of the title is set in the episcopal ring of Mgr. North—North of the North-West, or just *Monseigneur* as he becomes early on in the story—who is recuperating, after the rigours of his apostolic life amidst the frosts and snows of his Canadian diocese, in a little coastal village. We almost recognize the village; but that is characteristic of the whole book in which incidents and places and people are so vividly and truly drawn as to seem familiar to us. Thus the four children, who with the bishop play the leading parts, are delightfully human; we feel that we know them. They are little acquainted with religion, and understand its import not at all; but about the time of their discovering Monseigneur in his quiet retreat, their parents have, unknown to the children, discovered the true faith. It is left to Mgr. North, following their romantic interest in his episcopal ring, to lead them on the *Adventure of the Amethyst* to the discovery of the treasures of the Catholic Faith. Especially in the earlier part of the story the progress of the adventure depends upon the expositions of Monseigneur; and it is remarkable to see the ease and the completeness with which the author is able to unfold, in language not too learned for the young mind, both the philosoph-

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ical and theological foundations of our religion. As the story progresses, the various points of Catholic belief and practice gradually emerge, difficulties and doubts are dealt with, and excellent practical instruction is imparted, and all in so natural a way as to seem almost casual, certainly as to seem integral parts of the story that is being told.

We cannot in a short review do full justice to this admirable book, which was written for children by a specialist in the art of writing for children, but will be read with real interest as well as real profit by grown-ups, too. It is tastefully produced and lavishly illustrated; it will make an ideal school prize.

HILARY J. CARPENTER, O.P.

THE INIQUITOUS CONTRACT. By J. L. Benvenisti. (Burns, Oates; 5/-.)

In an attractively written book of just over a hundred pages Mr. Benvenisti has set out his thesis that it is in a false and pagan conception of ownership rather than in mere exchange mechanism that the main flaw in the contemporary economic system is to be found. The result is a "Shylocracy" in which the whole economic and social process is increasingly vitiated by Usury, a state of affairs is only to be remedied by a properly distributed ownership of the instruments of capital production.

Mr. Benvenisti's book deserves to be read by English Catholics, to whom it is, in the main, addressed: in particular it should be read by those who are inclined to disagree with his contention.

There is a story of a man who had, as they say, read himself into the Church. He took with him on his first visit to the priest full and exact details of his investments, for he had read of the teaching of the Church on Usury. He took it for granted that it would be as necessary to regularize his finances as to set in order his private life. He would certainly have Mr. Benvenisti's sympathy.

It is scarcely necessary to say that it is not essential to agree with everything in Mr. Benvenisti's book before recognizing its very real importance. It is to be hoped that it will enjoy the attention and the circulation which it deserves.

T. CHARLES-EDWARDS.

NOTICES

BLACKFRIARS, OXFORD, with illustrations by Joseph Pike, (Blackfriars, Oxford; 1/-.)

Some account of the Dominican Priory of the Holy Ghost where, among many other activities, this review is edited. The letter-press tells of its history and purpose, and the really re-