

Blackfriars

aspect might surely be a strength to many whose outlook on the subject lies between mere egotism and the high desire of the joyous few who long to suffer because their Love was crucified.

The translation can hardly be too highly praised; and since good translators are rare and much needed, we hope Mrs. Stawell will give us more of her excellent work.

M.B.

ABBOT COLUMBA MARMION : A MASTER OF THE SPIRITUAL LIFE.

By Dom Raymund Thibaut. Translated by Mother Mary St. Thomas. (Sands & Co., 1932; 15/- net.)

The French original of this book was reviewed in **BLACKFRIARS** on its appearance and warmly commended. It is a book that should be certain of a good reception, for it gives a full and attractive account of one whose spiritual writings are now well-known to the Catholic world and deservedly appreciated. Many a reader of those writings must have desired to know what sort of a person their author was; which desire is satisfied by this book in a workmanlike and thorough fashion. With the help of diaries and letters, and the testimony of those who knew him and lived with him, Dom Thibaut takes us behind the scenes and makes us intimately familiar with the sincere and devoted life of the true priest and monk that Abbot Marmion was. It is a story full of interest and edification, and we cannot but be grateful to the industrious and judicious biographer. So much, then, about the substance of the book; and now let us speak of the present English translation.

In regard to this we should like in the first place to express what may be an unreasonable regret, namely, that it was not possible to make the English book as compact and easy to handle as the French original. The English volume is just twice the size of the French, yet contains no more matter.

In the second place we must say that we have not been entirely pleased with the quality of the translation. It is a laborious piece of work, not quite flexible enough to be easy reading. The sentences are sometimes very awkwardly arranged and the vocabulary is often too near to the French. Certainly it is good enough to let the patient reader follow the story and follow it completely; but it does not make his task easy. That is our general criticism of its quality, a criticism which we do not wish to stress overmuch. In detail we have noticed several misprints and not a few errors due to mistranslation. When the book tells us that the River Shannon is in the County Kildare, or that the dioceses of Ireland deal with a population of 'nearly

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four million Catholics *scattered all over the world,*' these remarkable statements are due to a misunderstanding of the original. We could cite several more such mistakes. A curious error of another sort is the novel version 'reap with joy *wheat* I had sown in tears,' which we should have taken for a misprint, if it did not occur twice (pp. 38 and 66). Yet, after all, we should like to affirm our conviction that this book, in spite of such blemishes, is an admirable one, and that the patient reader will both enjoy it and get great good from its perusal.

J.M.

A SCOTTISH MONTESSORI SCHOOL. By a Sister of Notre Dame. (London: Sands & Co.; 5/-.)

Whatever one's attitude towards the Montessori method (and it is undoubtedly open to objection), no one could fail to be interested in the particular practical application of it described in this noteworthy volume. This Scottish Montessori School gives at least a pragmatic sanction to the Montessori method. The book itself is admirably written and arranged, and is generously illustrated with remarkably good photographs. The various chapters cover all the subjects of a normal syllabus and show the basic principles of the Method as applied to the various subjects in turn.

There are some interesting preliminary notes, amongst them one on 'discipline' (p. 6) which may serve to lessen the apprehensions of those who feel that the Montessori 'liberty' in the pupil must almost inevitably develop into 'licence.'

H.J.C.

HIGHWAYS AND BYWAYS IN GLOUCESTERSHIRE. By Edward Hutton. Illustrated by Hugh Thomson. (Macmillan; 7/6.)

This book is a notable addition to an already delightful series by an author who has previously written of Wiltshire and Somerset. How well he knows this part of the country! Those who already know Gloucestershire will revel in the wealth of descriptive and historical detail, and in that sense of seeing again the places and things they have loved which the author conveys. To those who do not know them, an irresistible desire to visit these places must be the result of their reading. Catholics will be grateful for the tone in which the book is written; so much, especially in church and monastic architecture, strikes in the author a note of regret and sorrow for the beautiful things destroyed in the sixteenth century; for instance, his lament over the now deserted Abbey of Hayles. What can be