

conforming to the will of God in all things, in order to achieve true holiness. His spirited attacks on present-day materialism and success worship are surely applicable not only to American conditions. Though we cannot agree that contemplation is only one means among others equally efficacious to bring our wills into union with the will of God, his insistence on the Christ-like life and his numerous quotations from the mystics show that his thought is nourished on the authentic doctrine of the saints. The book is obviously meant to be a help to beginners in the spiritual life, whom it will assist to come to a true assessment of values in an overwhelmingly materialistic world. H.C.G.

THE CONFESSIONS OF ST. AUGUSTINE. Translated by F. J. Sheed. (Sheed & Ward; 10s. 6d.).

The best that can be said of this translation is that it may in a manner introduce the *Confessions* to a new public, which presumably is a good thing. Mr. Sheed makes no pretence to scholarship, and has not profited by the recent improvements in the text of the original. "The present translation has no claim save that it tries to be in the English people speak now, just as St. Augustine wrote in the Latin people spoke then." Alas; things are not as simple as that. The Latin of the *Confessions* resembles that which people spoke then about as much and as little as the English of *Religio Medici* and *Urn Burial* resembles that which people spoke then. A technician who could re-write Sir Thomas Browne in modern English without making his homeliness trivial or his sublimity high-falutin' would be decently equipped to attempt the *Confessions*. Mr. Sheed is no such technician. W.S.

PALINODS. Poèmes à la Vierge. Par Gustave Lamarche. (Editions du Levrier, Montreal; n.p.).

With great charm and simplicity, Père Lamarche has presented an endearing picture of our Lady, made the more pleasing by the ease with which he fits the Mother of God into the immediate present. Among the common and well-tried sentiments, there are flashes of a bolder spirit and some powerful words of deep thought. These little "Refrains," always fresh and naive, become almost whimsical in their friendly respect of dignified personages and in their homely treatment of holy subjects, as in the delightful "Ode à l'Archange Gabriel." But the poet is adaptable and can express the harder realities in vigorous lines of great musical value. His novel verse forms add to the variety and make these poems worthy of attention. The whole edition is made more attractive still by the really charming little woodcuts by Maximilien Boucher, which provide a graceful introduction to a collection of simple but heartfelt appeals to prayer. A.R.

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