

Blackfriars

THE STUDENTS' CHURCH HISTORY. By the Rev. Charles Hart, B.A. (B.O.W. : Vol. I, 2/6; Vol. II, 3/6)

THE CHURCH IN THE WORLD. By F. A. Forbes. (Longman, Green and Co.; 3/- or paper covers, Parts I and II, 9d. each; Part III, 1/-.)

Father Hart proposes to complete his work in four volumes and in the two under review he treats of the history of the Church from Apostolic times to the coronation of the Emperor Charlemagne in 800 A.D. The work can be thoroughly well recommended as an admirable and effective presentation of the facts. F. A. Forbes, who has already laid English Catholics under so many obligations by former excellent manuals, adds to the debt with a clear account of all important happenings since Constantine drew the Church from out the Catacombs. The amount of information interestingly sewed up in 259 pages is truly amazing.

G.W.S.G.

A PRIMER OF CATHOLIC DOGMA. By Charles F. Blount, S.J. (Burns, Oates & Washbourne; 2/6.)

It is a little difficult at first to decide for what class of readers this book is intended. The individual explanations are too brief to leave an enquiring mind really clear.

But perhaps this may be precisely the chief merit of these brief notes. The reader will be started squarely on deeper investigations.

At least it should be useful to those employed in teaching Catechism to older children, or to converts who wish to know whether the Church says *this* or *that*. For such, a clear and definite statement is given; and since the mind is made for Truth, the total effect of the book should be excellent.

N.H.

JESU DULCIS MEMORIA. Translated into English Verse by The Most Rev. Alban Goodier, S.J. (Burns, Oates and Washbourne; 3d.).

The version falls far short of Caswell's best, but it is useful to those who do not know Latin, and serviceable to those who know enough to make comparisons. Latin and English are given side by side; the translation gives each quatrain in assonant male rhymes. Now for the enterprising rhymer who will give *assonant female rhymes* all through the poem, just as the Latin does? In English it would indeed be gay!

Book Reviews

The translator has somewhat handicapped himself by his scheme of rhymes, and though he does his task well enough to awake interest, he does not quite achieve his justification. Only in some stanzas does one feel the ease of mastery; in many of them one is perforce reminded of the 'prentice hand. For those who have served no sore apprenticeship, nor felt the need, this is a very good little souvenir to send (with best wishes for a Happy Christmas) to all beginners at the Divine Office for instance.

J.O'C.

THE ROYAL LAW. Little Chapters on Charity. By Abbot Boniface Wöhrmüller, O.S.B. Translated from the German of the sixth edition by Dom Ernest Graf, Monk of Buckfast Abbey. (Burns, Oates & Washbourne; 6/-.)

For the most part there is nothing very original in these 'Little Chapters,' but, on the other hand, there is no real need that there should be. Their subject is the daily small faults of mankind.

The real merit of the book is in the manner. Every word is direct and personal; the comments and criticisms flow from the writer's experience. The matter has been 'worked over' by one who is both gentle and observant.

There is great economy of words, and therefore the temptation is to read too fast. The same comment, of course, applies to another Ecclesiasticus, who, like this one, ended his collection of moral reflections with praise of famous men. Perhaps the famous men and women selected by Abbot Boniface serve most to increase one's great interest in the Abbot.

The translation is excellent. A very helpful book to a slow reader.

N.H.

AUGUSTINIAN MISCELLANEA. Edited by the Rev. E. A. Foran, O.S.A. (Burns, Oates and Washbourne; pp. 96; 1/6.)

The centenary of the Doctor of Grace has been celebrated all over the world, and it was a happy thought on the part of Father Foran to give us some account of the Congress at Carthage, of the meetings at Hippo and of the celebrations at Pavia, Florence, Viterbo, and Rome. Ireland and England, too, had their festivities, and various sermons preached on the occasion are given here. Two notable addresses were delivered in Ireland, one by Father Doolan, O.P., on Grace, the other by Father Mahoney, O.S.F.C., on St. Augustine the Christian