

THE GLOWING LILY. By Eugenia Markowa. (Bruce, Milwaukee; \$1.25).

St. Hedwig, the "lily of Poland", is the subject of this wholly original book. It can scarcely be called a biography, since it is a series of impressionistic pictures of a life of utter austerity set in the coloured but cruel world of a medieval court. It is, perhaps, an allegory of the tragic story of Poland, with the thread of Faith unbroken when all else seems lost. Hedwig, princess and mother, is driven at last to the scourgings and the solitude—the violence of the kingdom of heaven set against the violence of men. Opinions must differ as to the suitability of Madame Markowa's style for her purpose. The use throughout of the present tense, while giving vivacity, gives also a curious restlessness to the book. I.E.

"HAPPY MEMORIES OF A SAINT." From the French of Mother Perdrau. By L. Keppel. (Sards; 7s. 6d.).

How we wish we could say of some canonised Saint: "I knew him or her in this world". All that most of us can affirm is that we have been alive on this earth at the same time as someone now a Saint in heaven, e.g. St. John Bosco or St. Thérèse of Lisieux.

Mother Perdrau, lived a great part of her life in close and intimate converse with St. Madeleine Sophie Barat, foundress of the Sacred Heart nuns. Of course Mother Perdrau died long years before the canonisation of Mother Barat, but well they all knew, and the little children most of all, that a living Saint dwelt among them.

This book is not a biography, it is just happy memories, and such happy memories of a very homely lovable Saint, by a charming writer, who all unconsciously shows her own simple, childlike gracious mind.

The writer of this review has seldom been able to recommend so whole heartedly, or to praise any book so unstintingly. It has completely captivated him with its lovely atmosphere. May it be read by many. In this modern drab world it will bring colour and delight.

The jacket and the frontispiece is of *Mater admirabilis*, the fresco of Our Blessed Lady under that title in the *Trinita*, Rome. It was Mother Perdrau who made this fresco, thus showing that not only could she express her love of St. Madeleine Sophie, in writing, but could show her love of the Queen of Heaven in a now world famous fresco. 1944 saw the centenary of this great painting. GILES BLACK, O.P.

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