

Our Lady to our daily experience. We hope Miss Houselander will develop a more sustained and concentrated manner of thought and presentation. D.M.

THE MASS AND OFFICE FOR THE FEAST OF B.V.M. MEDIATRIX OF ALL GRACES. English translation edited with an introduction by John Hennig, Ph.D. (Dublin, James Duffy; 2s. 6d.).

The appeal of this book might be wider if it is accepted as a manual of devotional prayers rather than a liturgical text in the strict sense. To achieve its second purpose—promoting the knowledge of the Church's teaching on the universal mediation of Mary—a simple outline of this doctrine would have helped, for not everyone can pick out dogma from liturgical texts with any assurance. One can only visualise a limited public for a work of this sort. Yet it is only fair to say that what has been done has been done well, in spite of a few passages such as "I have stretched out my branches as the turpentine tree"; one only doubts to what extent it was worth while.

GERARD MEATH, O.P.

LES BONTÉS DE MARIE. Père Couture, O.P. (Les Editions du Lévrier; \$1.00).

This is the fourth volume of a series on the same subject compiled by Père Couture during the forty-five years of his apostolic career. It contains the account of sixty remarkable and authentic instances of Our Lady's intercession obtained chiefly through the medium of the Miraculous Medal. The unquestioning faith of the narrator becomes infectious through the enthusiasm and humour with which he tells his story and hard-headed indeed would be the reader who would qualify as mere "coincidence" even the least evidently miraculous of Our Lady's acts of kindness.

"Les Bontés de Marie" is "spirituel" in both senses of the word. "Causa nostrae laetitiae" must often have smiled approvingly on the eloquent preacher who could speak of her with such happy persuasiveness.

Incidentally the book would make an excellent commentary on the Bull for the definition of the doctrine of Our Lady's Immaculate Conception. S.M.D.

A HEROINE OF THE MISSION FIELD. By Dom Romanus Rios, O.S.B. (George Gill & Sons, London; 5s.).

"She never could do things by halves". These words aptly sum up the character of its subject. Mother Mary of the Heart of Jesus gave herself to God, to her spiritual daughters, to the missions, not by halves, but wholly. She made a holocaust of her life, and she was able to accomplish very big things because she so well understood the balance between contemplation and action in the Religious life.

As is often the case in reading lives of holy people, we are filled with wonder at the immense amount they accomplish in their lifetime. Mother Mary of the Heart of Jesus is no exception, as witness the story of her two lengthy missionary journeys. If we add to all this her penances and mortifications, her sufferings, physical and mental, our wonder and admiration are even greater. When she died, some fifty years ago she left twelve convents. Now the Institute founded by this valiant woman possesses eighty-two houses, chiefly in Australia, New Zealand, Canada and India.

This last fact—the locality of the houses—is of great interest to English speaking Catholics. That an Institute, founded in France by a Frenchwoman who intensely disliked the idea of working in England, and then came to love the land and people where now the Mother House of her Institute is situated, is rewardable enough. That the work of an Institute of French origin should now be almost entirely in the far flung lands of the British Commonwealth of Nations is even more amazing. God willed it. God brought it about. It gives the work of the Institute of Our Lady of the Missions a special call upon our prayers. It gives us a will, as Dom Romanus Rios says in his foreword to the book, “to lend a hand in fostering the cause of the beatification of Mother Mary of the Heart of Jesus”.

The life contains a considerable number of really good photographic illustrations.
GILES BLACK, O.P.

PSALM CXIX. Arranged with comments for purposes of devotion. By Alfred Dru Drury, M.A. Church Literature Association; 1/-.

The author (a member of the Anglican Community of the Resurrection) has made a gallant attempt to provide a commentary at once simple and devotional on this longest of Psalms. (Vulgate CXVIII).

The very frequent reference to other parts of Holy Scripture is useful and quite admirable. The book should help the general body of Anglicans who are the Book of Common Prayer and also those Anglicans who live in Community and recite the Breviary or a translation thereof. The Psalms are themselves priceless for mental prayer and to be familiar with them by meditation makes them come alive when said chorally.

It is misleading to say that the power of prayer has been confirmed by modern psychology. (Commentary on verse 140).

J.B.

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