

## BLACKFRIARS

ELEMENTA PHILOSOPHIÆ ARISTOTELICO-THOMISTICÆ. By Josephus Gredt, O.S.B. Editio septima recognita. Vol. I: Logica, Philosophia Naturalis. (Herder, Freiburg i.B.; RM. 6.40; bound RM. 8.—.)

SUMMA PHILOSOPHIÆ ARISTOTELICO-THOMISTICÆ. By Angelo M. Pirotta, O.P. Vol. II: Philosophia Naturalis. (Marietti, Turin; L. 35.—.)

The first of these manuals of Thomist philosophy needs no recommendation. It suffers, of course, from occasional oversimplifications inseparable from any work which seeks to compress the whole accumulated wisdom of the *philosophia perennis* into the compass of a handbook; but, on the whole, the work of P. Gredt is singularly free from the naïvetés common to this class of text-book. The somewhat ponderous Teutonic Latin is a minor drawback which can soon be mastered. This new edition includes some amplification of the treatment of the central concepts of act and potency, and considerable additions to the texts from the works of Aristotle and Aquinas which make P. Gredt's manual particularly useful as an introduction to their philosophy. Not the least important recommendation to P. Gredt's treatment of logic and physics is the least advertized: it is in fact largely a condensation of the masterly treatises of the great, but somewhat wordy, Spanish Thomist, Juan de San Tomas. Besides being condensed this has, however, been brought up to date, but there is relatively little of the facile "refutation" of later philosophers and obscure schoolmen which makes similar manuals in turn irritating, laughable and tiresome.

P. Pirotta's work, for all its excellence, is hardly to be recommended to those in whom such emotions are but imperfectly mortified. P. Pirotta has everybody "taped," labelled, and a store of concentrated explosives with which to annihilate them in a paragraph. His cosmos is, perhaps, too neat to be altogether convincing. But there is much excellent constructive work; and this is often directed to difficult topics which more ethereal manualists prefer to disregard. A massive bibliography, and still more an abundance of references to other authors and authorities scattered throughout the volume, should make this *Summa* particularly useful to advanced students; while the countless slick distinctions will be of much use to the professor seeking for rapid replies to the difficulties of inquisitive pupils.

VICTOR WHITE, O.P.

## HISTORY

HISTORY OF THE POPES. By Ludwig Freiherr von Pastor. Translated and edited by Dom Ernest Graf, O.S.B. Vols. XXV and XXVI. (Kegan Paul; 15/- each.)

These two volumes, admirably translated by Dom Ernest Graf,

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deal with the reign of Paul V except for the first twenty-five pages of Vol. XXV devoted to the three weeks' pontificate of Leo XI. The rule of Paul V, Camillo Borghese, was almost exclusively that of a peace-loving ruler, but he was forced to take a firm stand against the anti-papal measures of the arrogant republic of Venice whose evil genius was the notorious Servite Paolo Sarpi, who tried to introduce Protestantism into the state and throughout his life showed a well-nigh insane hatred of the Holy See. The Pope strongly countered the action of Venice by excommunicating the Doge and his Council and laying the whole country under an interdict. Just when war seemed inevitable, and a war that threatened to embroil Europe owing to the jealousy existing between Spain and France, the French King Henry IV managed to persuade Venice to submit. The Pope had trouble also with the English as the result of his condemning the oath of allegiance proposed by the government to the Catholics, and this produced a new wave of persecution.

Paul V's pontificate was particularly beneficial to the States of the Church, which he cleared of bandits and carried safely through a most distressing period of famine. His regulations, which included the building of granaries and the storage of grain which the poor could buy at a moderate price, is reminiscent of the Patriarch Joseph in Egypt. The Pope set up a special congregation of ministers to procure food from the surrounding countries where crops had not failed; and looking to the future he forbade the slaughter of plough-oxen and ordered cattle-dealers to sell at least twenty-five per cent of their stock for the purposes of agriculture. He forced pawnbrokers to lend sums of money up to 1,000 *scudi* at two per cent to the farmers round Rome, and by severe measures prevented profiteering, and when some Jews broke this law they died on the gallows. The money for all his measures to relieve the distress came from the Treasury without added taxation, and thanks to his efforts there was no lack of food during the years of scarcity.

Paul V's memory will always be associated with the completion of St. Peter's. He it was who added the colossal nave, built on the site of the old Constantine basilica then crumbling to decay. Many other churches owed their restoration to his generosity and not a few public buildings, including the palace of the Quirinal, the customary papal residence. Many characters both varied and interesting appear in these pages of Pastor and are faithfully dealt with; Galileo the astronomer, and de Dominis the apostate Archbishop of Spalato in Dalmatia who, disappointed of the cardinal's hat, joined the Anglican Church to obtain better preferment, even it is said aiming at Canterbury; but although James I was a fool there were limits to his folly, and de Dominis

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finally returned to Rome to die in prison repentant. Then there is an able description of the "Austrian Wolsey," Cardinal Klesl, who served the Emperor by ruling him until he too found wisdom in disgrace.

Owing to his comparative youth when elected—he was only fifty-two—Paul V had a long reign of fifteen years. He died from the effects of a stroke on January 28, 1621. Little has been urged against him by historians, the chief fault stressed being his nepotism, but it must be said in his favour that the relations he raised to honour, wealth and power were worthy of the trust he placed in them. Pastor's two excellent volumes are a just tribute to an estimable Pontiff.

WALTER GUMBLEY, O.P.

### A PAPAL CHAMBERLAIN, THE PERSONAL CHRONICLE OF F. A. MACNUTT. (Longmans; 15/-.)

This is an unusual sort of book, and its author an unusual man, who had an unusual career. The late Mr. G. K. Chesterton, who contributes an Introduction, calls him "a rare and remarkable person, of whom we can say that the supernatural came natural to him." Half a century ago the writer of this review had the privilege of meeting him, but not until he read these memoirs did he realize how great that privilege was.

Francis MacNutt was an American, whose life covers the years 1863-1927. He came of the strictest sect of the Pharisees, that is to say he was born of grim Puritan stock, of Scottish and Presbyterian origin, settled at Richmond, Indiana. Yet to him, and in much the same fashion as to St. Paul, was given in early boyhood that dynamic Catholic Faith to which he ever afterwards clung. After some time at Harvard, he went to Europe and made a modern equivalent of the "Grand Tour," ending up with a long stay in Rome, in each place meeting everybody who was anybody and manifesting a positive genius for friendship. Then he had some interesting years in Mexico, and there first fell under the influence of that eccentric saint or saintly eccentric Kenelm Vaughan, whom many of us remember so well. That phase lasted a long time and for a while he was Father Vaughan's sole companion in the strange Religious Order the former endeavoured to found. When that ended in nothing, MacNutt (at Cardinal Manning's suggestion) became a clerical student at the Roman Accademia. But it did not take long to discover that he had no call to the Priesthood. He then entered the United States diplomatic service, and was First Secretary at Vienna, Constantinople, Madrid and elsewhere. After a subsequent ramble over the world, he settled down in Rome, married a rich wife, and found at last his true vocation. For many years he was a great figure in the Eternal City, and rendered real and unforgotten help to the