

Book Reviews

BENEDICTIONALE, seu Ritus in Expositione et Benedictione SS. Sacramenti Servandus. Cui adjunctae sunt quaedam preces in piis exercitiis per annum occurrentibus adhibendae. Cura Rev. J. B. O'Connell. (Turnhout, Belgium. Brepols' Catholic Press, 1932. 4to, pp. 88. No indication of price.)

Fr. O'Connell's *Benedictionale* was first published in 1922 for use in Ireland and America. The present edition is accommodated to the needs of the clergy in England, Scotland and Wales. All the customary and official prayers are given for Benediction and other set occasions. The editor, a recognised rubrical authority, contributes a valuable introduction on the rules governing Exposition and Benediction.

The print is bright enough, but in the fount, spacing, and leading, there has been little regard for the convenience of the priest, who is expected to read out prayers in the vernacular, many of which are far from happily phrased. (Is it too late to hope that some of them may yet be rendered into vigorous and unaffected English, without Battered Ornament, Stock Pathos, Elegant Variation, Anti-Saxonism and the rest? Or is it a dead branch of literature, the writing of formal prayers? Some of the recent Breviary Offices would make it seem so.) The heavy underlining of syllables in the litanies for the musical accent is practical but disfiguring—not that any of the machined-looking pages show any care for an ordered and balanced display of type. All books of this sort should be set-up by hand. 'Most vialant' is a misprint in the litany of St. Joseph.

P.Q.

EVANGILE SELON SAINT LUC, introduction, traduction française et commentaire par le R. P. Lavergne, O.P. (Paris: J. Gabalda et Fils; 18 francs.)

This small work is of great value. It is in effect an excellent résumé of Père Lagrange's great commentary on the Gospel of St. Luke. At the same time the author, Père Lavergne, has taken account of Père Lagrange's more recent writings. He indicates at the end of his useful short introduction whence he has drawn the matter for his work, but it would have been better if some indication had been given on the title-page as well. However, it is difficult to see how the task itself could have been better done, and the little volume will prove most helpful to anyone who wishes to read the third Gospel with understanding.

L.W.