

tell him that 'Walsingham might have belonged to any Christian country' (*Great Tudors*, p. 211). But neither writer will help the general reader to further study. All three books, but particularly the first, would have been more valuable, and certainly not less attractive, if enriched by a short reading-list.

GODFREY ANSTRUTHER, O.P.

WILLIAM OF MALMESBURY'S HISTORIA NOVELLA.

GESTA STEPHANI. Latin text with translation and notes by K. R. Potter. (Nelson; 20s. each.)

It is a pleasure to welcome excellent new editions of these two histories fundamental for the study of the trouble years of Stephen, more especially as the second is something of an historical event. When a text of the *Gesta Stephani* was already in typescript, a manuscript which supplied the lost ending of the work was discovered at Valenciennes. Professor Mynors, who collated the MSS and contributes a note on them in either volume, concludes that the new manuscript was a copy of the now lost Laon MS used by Duchesne, in which several *lacunae* already occurred before the fourteenth century. Unfortunately this means that there is still no account of the Battle of the Standard which must once have been there. Dr Poole has given us an admirable estimate of the evidence which the newly-discovered manuscript supplies. Malmesbury's *Historia Novella*, which was left incomplete and unrevised, is a more shrewd and concise narrative than that of the author of the *Gesta Stephani*, but it is impossible not to feel the attraction and at times the vividness of the writing of this unknown supporter of Stephen. The two works, seldom differing over the facts, are from their differing points of view delightfully complementary, and even Malmesbury cannot withhold a word of praise for Stephen, that *mansuetissimus homo*.

A.S.

FELIX'S LIFE OF ST GUTHLAC. Edited and translated by Bertram C. Colgrave. (Cambridge University Press; 30s.)

Guthlac was a Mercian who lived the life of a solitary in the Fenland during the last years of the seventh century and the first decade of the eighth. He attained a reputation for sanctity during his lifetime. Felix wrote his life of the saint before the middle of the eighth century while many of the saint's contemporaries were still alive. Later a certain amount of imaginative writing and not a little forgery was called in to build up the legend of the saint and incidentally to magnify the importance of the monastery of Crowland with which he was associated.

In Mr Colgrave's translation the life reads easily and pleasantly and a wealth of incidental information about the Fen country and its people in the eighth century can be picked up. For those of more scholarly tastes Mr Colgrave provides an exhaustive historical and literary background and a complete textual apparatus. The original text edited here gives to the curious a nice example of how the Latin language may be tortured and yet survive.

U.F.

ST BERNADETTE. By Leonard von Matt and Francis Trochu. (Longmans; 30s.)

A meditative pause before opening this pictorial biography of St Bernadette is inevitable. The eyes that looked at the Blessed Virgin seem to look at you from the photograph of the saint on the dust-jacket. And inside what a glorious collection of pictures awaits you, and a text, too, that is worthy of the subject. The quality of the photographs, their selection and arrangement are beyond superlatives of praise.

Mr Leonard von Matt has used photographs of the days of Bernadette, but he has done much more than that. The past becomes the present through his ingenious camera-work; the scenes of Bernadette's childhood come alive; we can follow the unfolding of her life from the moment she was singled out by Our Lady until her perpetual rest in death. Present-day peasant girls take her place in localities that she knew, doing such things as she did. We visit houses she lived in; we enter convents where she grew in spiritual stature. We see the grotto as Bernadette knew it and as it later came to be. We can examine the clothes she wore on the momentous occasions. We can study the evidence of her educational progress, of her artistic ability. We can ponder the features of personalities in her life, the family, her parish priest, her formidable novice-mistress, government officials. And, in the end, we can linger over the exquisite loveliness of Bernadette asleep in death.

Mgr Francis Trochu's swiftly-moving commentary, combined with Mr von Matt's photographic skill, results in an original biography and a magnificent tribute to our Lady's little shepherdess.

KIERAN MULVEY, O.P.

A CEDAR OF LEBANON. By Paul Daher, O.L.M., S.T.L., PH.D. Translated by L. E. Whatmore, M.A., F.R.HIST.S. (Browne and Nolan; 15s.)

Charbel Makhoulf (Sharbel Makhluif) was a Maronite of the Lebanon who lived from 1828 to 1898. He became a monk, and spent twenty-three years as a hermit, a way of life still provided for in the Maronite