

One of the most interesting chapters is that on the abbeys of nuns of which Nonnberg has been always the chief. Claustal life has been continuous and we find that it is possible to live the Rule of St Benedict even in one of the chief cities of Austria.

Mention should be made of the Oblates connected with the abbey of Kremsmunster. These parish Sisters spend two years in their convent living a strict monastic life, with the Divine Office (Day Hours) recited in the vernacular. After this they are attached to parishes or other works. Their habits are always kept ready for the occasional visits and retreats they make from time to time to their convent.

Space will not permit mention of the many other interesting things contained in this book: of the land settlements of the Scots monastery in Vienna, of the centres of learning, retreats, liturgical weeks and places of pilgrimage. May it do much for the glory of God and for a true understanding of the work of St Benedict, whom the present Holy Father called 'the Father of Europe'.

DOM VINCENT DAPRE, O.S.B.

CONTEMPLATIONS Presented to the Dominican Tertiaries of Glasgow to mark the Silver Jubilee of their Chapter, 1924-1949. (Oxford, Blackfriars; 7s.6d.)

When that greatly over-rated sage, the Proverb-Maker, asserted that 'too many cooks spoil the broth', he cannot have foreseen an intellectual repast such as the one set before these Brethren of the Third Order of St Dominic on their Silver Jubilee. The ten dishes comprising it are tastefully presented and arranged in just the right sequence, so that a word of praise is due at the outset to the steward of the feast. The ten cooks bear names familiar to all readers of *Blackfriars*, and the variety of their contributions is the measure not only of the wide range of subjects dealt with by Dominican writers, but also of the wide range of interests of Glasgow Tertiaries. Philosophy, Theology, History, Devotions: there is food for all tastes and to suit all mental digestions. None of the papers exceeds ten pages of text—just enough to whet our appetites for more. The short sketch of Blessed Martin de Porres certainly does this, and we could do with more information too about Scottish Blackfriars in the sixteenth century when a Mass stipend was 'sex penyis, and a galown of the best sale ale of the town', not to say anything of the more solid fare served up by Father Ivo Thomas on 'The Logical Square and Modes of Categorical Syllogism'. Altogether a memorable meal, which does credit to Dominican Glasgow—and Oxford.

DESMOND SCHLEGEL, O.S.B.

BENEDICUS: VATER DER MONCHE. By Bonifaz Benzng. (Herder, Freiburg.)

'Whoever undertakes the biography of St Benedict, the Patriarch of monks, is severely limited from the very start. We know next

to nothing with absolute certainty of the course of his life. There are only two original sources for St Benedict and his work: the Holy Rule, and the *Dialogues* of St Gregory'. Beginning his foreword with these words, the author continues, however, by drawing a vivid picture of the saint, his outstanding personality, his influence on medieval European culture. He does this without overstepping the limits he has recognised from the beginning and the result will stir enthusiasm for this great saint and his work, the Benedictine Order, which flourishes today as with a new spring. G.L.

THE MIRACULOUS PICTURE OF THE MOTHER OF PERPETUAL SUCCOUR. By Daniel Buckley, C.S.S.R. (Mercier Press; 10s.6d.)

Literary output follows much the same trends in the spiritual as in the secular realms. A certain subject is in the boom: everybody rushes something to press to 'cash in' on it—to climb on the 'band-waggon'. So a book on the well-worn if very worthy subject of 'Our Lady of Perpetual Succour' will gain much by catching the boom in Marian stocks for which Fatima in particular is responsible today.

This real resurgence of Marian devotion is one of the most consoling and hopeful signs of the times (otherwise so hopeless). It is too much to hope that we must not pay some penalty for the favours Mary is showering on the modern world, by not one or two but a host of manifestations in our own life-time. One of the normal penalties is this spate of second-class writing on this most sublime of subjects. We must, in the very genuine enthusiasm that is today, thank God, sweeping the world, be all the more careful about rival shrines, rival novenas, and rival books of propaganda. Fr Buckley's book certainly merits this last title.

One cannot but admire the thoroughness with which the Redemptorists have propagated knowledge of and devotion to this particular one of the many miraculous pictures of our Lady, which came so late into their possession. Nevertheless, no one need be carried away by the Cook's Tour with which Fr Buckley ends his book. Having lived or travelled in many of these countries, I have found the picture quite common as the result of Redemptorist Missions, but have certainly found nothing to justify the rather pretentious title of the last chapter, i.e. 'Everyone's Madonna'.

E. S. KLIMECK.

SAINTS WHO MOVED THE WORLD. By René Fülöp-Miller. (Hutchinson; 12s.6d.)

This is an outstanding book. In five chapters the story is told of the lives of five saints, and each chapter contains more than a mere biography. The lives of these four men and one woman (the first lived in the third, and the last in the sixteenth century) are pictured in a vivid background of the times in which they lived, and they stand out not only as vital personalities, but as the embodi-