

PARISH PRIESTS AMONG THE SAINTS. By Father Walter Gumbley, O.P., F.R.Hist.S. Foreword by Father Vincent McNabb, O.P., S.T.M. (Walker, 27 Chancery Lane, W.C.2.)

Father Walter Gumbley has disproved in a most effective as well as admirable way the commonly accepted belief that, with the exception of the *Curé d'Ais*, there have been no parish priests amongst the canonised saints—a belief fearfully shared by the holy *Curé* himself. Out of the treasure of his patient research the author has set down in this little book brief accounts of no less than thirty-two such pastors, and no one knows better than he that this number does not exhaust the splendid array. In giving his 'imprimatur' to 'a delightful book' which 'should do much good,' the Bishop of Nottingham well declares that 'it will be a source of encouragement also to all those who are engaged in Apostolic work and who may sometimes be tempted to discouragement . . .'. It could also be regarded as a tardy recognition of the self-sacrificing devotion, not to say heroism, of the countless army of parochial clergy who have laboured throughout the centuries and continue to labour now in obscure and undistinguished portions of the Lord's vineyard.

H.J.C.

DANIEL: MAN OF DESIRES. By Dom Hubert Van Zeller. (Burns, Oates and Washbourne; 7s. 6d.)

The Book of Daniel, marvellous, mysterious and set in an Oriental background, is like a story in the *Arabian Nights*. Dom Van Zeller has caught the atmosphere; and, thanks to a lively imagination and a dash of fiction, he has managed to give us a very entertaining book. The serious reader may complain of the frequent asides in the first person singular and resent interruptions which distract him and jerk him out of dreamland into consciousness of the modern author. Still, his remarks are both original and entertaining and will serve his purpose which is, no doubt, to persuade people to read the sacred scriptures for themselves. Those whose appetites are stimulated will go to their Bibles for the complete picture of the prophet—his heroic holiness, sublime prayer, mysterious visions and his colloquies with the angel Gabriel, which are only barely touched upon by Dom Van Zeller. We question whether the need for penance is the same thing as the desire for penance as is asserted at the foot of page 36. Clearly, everyone needs

penance, though the desire for it does not seem universally conspicuous. The chronology of the Book of Daniel is very puzzling, and we are astonished to hear from Dom Van Zeller that Daniel must have been nearly eighty when he was thrown into the lion's den. The author, following the text, says that 'Daniel laughed' when he was about to show up the cheating of the priests of Bel. Many a zealot would have thrown up his holy hands in holy horror; but Daniel, the genuine saint—well, 'Daniel laughed.'

M.I.A.

BOOKS RECEIVED

- ANGELICUM (Rome): *Commentaria in De Anima Aristotelis*; ed. P. I. Coquelle, O.P. (Lire 18).
- BLACKWELL: *This War and Christian Ethics: A Symposium* (6s.).
- BURNS AND OATES: *The Divine Crucible of Purgatory*, Mother St. Austin; revised and edited, Nicholas Ryan, S.J. (6s.). *Collected Poems*, Alice Meynell (4s.).
- CASA EDITRICE RONDINELLA (Naples): *Logica Sperimentale*, Annibale Pastore (Lire 40).
- CATHOLIC SOCIAL GUILD: *Catholic Social Year Book, Pope Pius XII on World Order*, Lewis Watt, S.J., M.A., B.Sc. (1s.).
- FREDERICK MULLER: *The Legion of Mary*, Cecily Hallack (5s.).
- JOHN MURRAY: *The Last Man*, Alfred Noyes (7s. 6d.).
- SHEED AND WARD: *You'd Better Come Quietly*, Leonard Feeney, S.J. (6s.). *The Religious Houses of Medieval England*, Dom David Knowles, O.S.B. (8s. 6d.).
- S.P.C.K.: *Fathers and Heretics*, G. L. Prestige (12s. 6d.).