

irreconcilable differences between the Anglican formularies and the teaching of the Council of Trent; a half truth which clearly reveals his innocence with regard to the Anglican actuality, an innocence which some Anglo-Catholics, with far less justification are too prone to share. A well known conversation, on the occasion of his first visit to England, with Bishop Mandell Creighton, then of Peterborough, (p. 47) shows again how radical such misunderstandings could be. It is safe I think to say that reunion work will never again be pursued in this country in such an atmosphere of unreality, and M. Portal's life and work have this great value that they show clearly where the mistakes in the movement of which he was leader and inspirer were made.

HENRY STJOHN, O.P.

ODE IN HONOUR OF THE HOLY IMMACULATE MOST BLESSED GLORIOUS LADY MOTHER OF GOD AND EVER VIRGIN MARY. Translated from the original Greek, with a Foreword by Fr Vincent McNabb, O.P., S.T.M. With Notes by D.A. (Oxford, Blackfriars Publications; 3s. 6d.)

Legend connects the composition of this Ode in honour of our Lady with the events of the year 626, when the Patriarch Sergius led his people in interceding with the Mother of God to save Constantinople, the 'New Rome', then threatened by barbarian invasion just as the 'Old' had been two centuries earlier in the time of Pope Leo. Whether or no Sergius himself, or one of his clergy, be in fact the author of this liturgical hymn, found in the Byzantine Horologion, it is certain that it is one of the most beautiful of Marian devotions, and we are grateful to the late Fr Vincent McNabb for having given it to us in this lovely English rendering. May we hope that the *Akathistos* be not reserved solely for the private prayer of Western Catholics? It is eminently suitable for public recitation: priest and people alternating in the salutations of the *Oikoi*, and all joining in: 'Hail! Bride Unbrided'. This edition has been finely printed and set up by the Ditchling Press.

G. D. S.

OUR LADY OF LIGHT. Translated and abridged from the French of Chanoine C. Barthas and Père J. da Fonesca, S.J. (Clonmore and Reynolds, Dublin; 10s. 6d.)

This book is divided into five parts, The Apparitions, The Pilgrimage, The Seers, Miracles, Documentary Part. In my opinion the first and third parts—the Apparitions and the Seers—could well have been combined. The book is readable, useful and stirring.

We need a great deal of literature about Fatima, for the events which took place there are of vital importance. Someone has recently said that it looked as if things were now growing so desperate and men so unthoughtful of God that his Blessed Mother was taking

things more and more into her own hands and saying: 'I will make men listen'. Certainly our Lady has spoken at Fatima quite as definitely as she spoke at Lourdes and her actions at Fatima and the great miracle which she promised for the 13th of October, 1917, and obtained, were quite terrific and utterly startling.

If this book makes men heed our Lady of Fatima it will have achieved its purpose. I think it will. It is a good book.

G. B.

TALKS FOR THE MONTH OF MAY. By J. A. F. Nutt. (Burns Oates; 2s. 6d.).

This is a small book of eighty-four pages. It contains thirty-two small talks on our Lady taken for the most part from the Gospel of St Luke, which is our Lady's Gospel. Except the last six talks, all are taken from the first two chapters of St Luke, and these chapters as we know are almost verbally the answers of our Blessed Lady to his questions.

The talks are sound in doctrine. They are fresh. Not one paragraph is dull. They will surely help to a greater love of God's Holy Mother.

OUR LADY OF SORROWS: *A Book of Meditations*. By Hilary M. Morris, O.S.M. (Burns Oates; 6s. 0d.).

This is a good book. There is much profitable reading in it. The meditations are simple and concise. The first part of the book consisting of some fifty pages has twenty-six short meditations. Some meditations contain three, others only two main paragraphs and always there is given us an idea, a thought worth turning over in our mind.

We like these brief reflections, chiefly for their naïve simplicity and we feel that the author has given us the things that he has himself pondered over in his mind.

The second part of the book (fifty pages) deals with the Seven Sorrows of our Lady. To each of the Sorrows is linked a Gift of the Holy Spirit. One feels that the association of each Sorrow with a Gift may be arbitrary, still it seems successful. The book can be recommended to all 'simple' souls. We should never forget that we owe a debt of gratitude to our Mother because She suffered *with Him for us*. This little book will help us to pay Her that debt.

THE MYSTICAL ROSE. By Father Hubert, O.F.M.Cap. (The Mercier Press; 5s.)

We can never hear enough about our Lady. We call Her our Blessed Lady, our own most beautiful woman. She is the Lady of a thousand titles. Because we love Her, we give Her all sorts of lovely names, pet-names we might say. We call Her 'Ivory Tower', 'Golden House', 'Heaven's Gate', 'Star of the Dawn', 'Ark of the Covenant'.