

## *Blackfriars*

incredibly crude attempts to popularise Catholic doctrine. They repel the educated and do nothing to aid the simple. F.B.

**PLAYS FOR PUPPETS. PILATE, A PASSION PLAY.** (St. Dominic's Press, Ditchling).

Here are two kinds of play neglected by the ordinary English writer, one untouched by him, the other lapsed and out of date. Both kinds are good and deserve more attention. First the courage of the author must be praised. He has succeeded in both in using the technique peculiar to the character of each.

The charm about puppets is that they can do things which ordinary human beings cannot do, and the humour of their antics arises largely from the feats and contortions they are able to perform—the Burglar and his accomplice in one of these jump from the ground to the roof of a house with complete ease; inanimate things come to life, brooms and pails dance round the room in another, all in the best style of the Italian Burattini. Is it being captious to ask for the removal of such affectations as 'Crockodile'?

Puppet plays are alive in certain countries, but Passion plays, with a notable exception, are dead. There have been attempts of late years to revive them. The only way to make them really live again, is to write new ones. This one, *Pilate*, has the right liturgical feeling, dignity, mixture of humour and religion. The only question is, do anachronisms, occurring unconsciously in the style of the mediaeval writers, succeed when consciously introduced now? Some few words jar; speaking of the Last Supper

Bidding them *Do this*  
As He had done.

*Claudia.*

But this is *bliss*.  
A pledge . . . .

And what does this sentence mean

'Craft jealousy is hard to hide.'?

Both books are well printed by hand. The first is adorned with some charming woodcuts. F.M.

**SPIRITUAL EXERCISES OF A DOMINICAN FRIAR.** By F. William Perin. Edited by C. Kirchberger. (Sheed & Ward, 1929; 2/6 net.)

This is an abridged edition of a spiritual work which was well known to English Catholics of the seventeenth century. Among