

of the Little Sisters of the Poor. At the age of 46 Soeur Marie of the Cross, as she was to be known, began her work by giving her own bed in an attic to a 'helpless old blind woman'.

Mgr Trochu has given us a rare historical document, vibrating with the genuine pulse of great founders. Gratitude is due also for the excellence of the translation—the explanatory footnotes and a number of interesting details to a work already well-documented.

Cardinal Brossais Saint-Marc, the French Academy and Charles Dickens joined the countless poor of France in extolling Jeanne. God's work is invariably stamped with his sign; the greater the work, the deeper the impress. She knew the value of humility and this gift and the opportunity to practise it were accorded her in full measure. Now her daughters are praying earnestly for her beatification. It is to be hoped that through this re-edition the name of Jeanne Jugan will become as well-known in this country as are the Little Sisters of the Poor themselves.

SR M. NINIAN, O.P.

THE FIRST URSULINE, by M. Riguet, S.J.; Burns and Oates, 15s.

This well-documented biography of a saint, whose life will interest many young readers on both sides of the Atlantic, is presented in an attractive and colourful style. The author gives an interesting build-up of life in and around Brescia at the bridging of the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries. Perhaps St Angela is less well known than is one branch of her family, the Ursulines of the Roman Union, an off-shoot of the monastic Ursulines established by St Charles Borromeo. Her original sisterhood still flourishes in Italy in the person of some 16,000 Angelines, who keep to the Saint's original plan of a quasi-secular institute.

This book would have appealed to a far wider public had the author let the facts speak for themselves. Frequently the reader is gently persuaded into a way of thinking that places the story-teller in the sights rather than the saint. It is difficult to decide who the intended readers are. Those wanting or needing a wealth of commentary will be out of their depth with the Guelfs and Ghibelines and contrariwise the older readers may get impatient with digressions that hardly seem relevant, or even be mystified by the idea that what was once an ambition to become a saint shrinks to 'a fat envelope at the end of a week or a high sounding cheque each month'.

These reflections will not take away from the readableness of the book. The attractiveness of the saint herself, a saint for today, whose whole life spells *Fiat mihi secundum verbum tuum* will be felt by many, perhaps for the first time, for others in a fuller measure.

SR M. NINIAN, O.P.