

## *Blackfriars*

quality about the *Cloud*, a very considerable measure of the 'grand style,' which Hilton does not seem to us to attain. His is a more pedestrian genius, less lyrical and sublime, more humble and more ordinary.

However, it is exact research, and that alone, which can solve this problem, and we hope that Miss Jones will go on with her work and some day present us with the solution. We give a warm welcome to this volume of her labours.

J.M.

NO. 4. AERIAL A.B.C. AND COMMERCIAL AIR-LINE GAZETTEER.  
February-April, 1929. (4 Duke Street, W.C. 2.)

Times are changing! Already an Aerial A.B.C. can be published quarterly! It is a business-like book, and has full lists of fares, freights, distances, etc. Two hundred and twenty-seven regular services are scheduled. Long and awkward journeys—for example, that to Northern Africa—have become quick and easy. Or there is a daily service to Moscow, taking only twenty-nine hours. The trip down to Teheran in Persia—two thousand miles further on—is so easy that it makes Burnaby's great 'Ride to Khiva' seem one long fuss. Nearly all great towns are now on air-lines, or soon will be. In a year or two Australia will be a holiday resort, and invalids will be ordered to take a quick eighty-days' trip round the world.

Formerly a traveller talked of Peoples, soon his stories will be of Places—2,000 ft. below. Times are changing.

N.H.

WILD PARSLEY. By Margaret Yeo. (Burns, Oates and Washbourne; 7/6.)

September, 1917, to January, 1921; for characters, Diana Ridgeway, the young mother of Gus, a youth of eighteen who enters the war and meets Philip Pagan with whom he shares a glowing friendship and who wakes in Diana great love and a greater generosity; Colonel Wilson, Father Martin and Wilfrid Field, who are also flung by the war into important relationships with the Ridgeways; the traditional old Duke; Rosemary, developing sweetly; Thyrza, product of Greece, an English school, and Paris, but mostly Greece; Carmencita and Lucy Smith, both courtesans, one Parisian and the other desperately English; monks and soldiers: for setting, a country-town in Hertfordshire, war-time Paris, a ducal mansion and a monastery in Sussex, the battlefields after the war, and Athens: for theme, 'self-discipline and the crown of wild

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parsley or self-indulgence, vine-leaves and roses.' As far as this is a war-time story we see the late war chiefly from a woman's point of view; for the rest, we see the strong temptations and human frailty, the high hopes and achievements of live men and women, through Catholic eyes.

Mrs. Yeo has shown her strength in *Wild Parsley* (not least in the compliment she pays to the reader's intelligence) and the love that exists between Gus and Diana, one of the freshest qualities of an original story, Pagan's emotional and mental development, and Diana's spiritual growth are outstanding features in really admirable character studies; and the fearlessness, sincerity and beauty with which Mrs. Yeo has written her book, grinding no propagandist axe, make it a valuable contribution to new Catholic fiction.

It may be that there is too much coincidence in the tale, but for my part I am only worried by one thing—why should it be necessary to 'atone' for discovering through experience that you have no religious vocation?  
R.R.

### HISTORY OF THE POPES FROM THE CLOSE OF THE MIDDLE AGES.

From the German of Ludwig, Freiherr von Pastor. Edited by Ralph Francis Kerr, of the Oratory. Vol. XVIII. (London: Kegan Paul, 1929; 15/- net.)

It is of course quite unnecessary at this time of day to praise Pastor's great work, or to commend its excellent English rendering. One recognizes that here is no special pleading, no partisan white-washing of historical characters, but the Truth, the whole Truth, and nothing but the Truth. The present instalment of the History covers only part of the pontificate of St. Pius the Fifth, and is mainly devoted to an account of his administration as a temporal sovereign, his reform of the Roman Curia and of the religious orders, and his use of the Inquisition to enforce religious unity. There is much in it that jars on our modern notions. The Pope was a very stern father of the faithful indeed, and the Rome of his day could not have been a pleasant place to live in. A Puritan of the Puritans, he strove to transform the pleasure-loving city of the Renaissance into a vast monastery-town of the gloomiest type. Alike in Rome, in Italy, and the world at large, Repression was the key-note of his policy. His pontificate was the hey-day of the Inquisition, and we have in the present volume a terrifying record of beheadings, burnings, stranglings, and autos-da-fé. Yet the inflexible Pontiff might justly claim that in their results his ruthless methods not only sealed the fate of Protestantism