

Book Reviews

chosen to do justice to an heroic woman and her undoubtedly great work. However, Miss Gibbons must be thanked for the trouble she has taken in collecting valuable statistics and documents for the compilation of this volume: they will be of the greatest worth when the true biography of Margaret Aylward comes to be written.

W.F.

BLESSED BERNADETTE SOUBIROUS. By the Abbé J. Blazy. Translated by the Right Rev. Mgr. Charles Payne, Vicar-General of Nottingham. (Burns, Oates and Washbourne, Ltd.; pp. 148; 1/6 net.)

The publishers are to be commended for producing a cheap edition of Mgr. Payne's translation of the life of Blessed Bernadette Soubirous by the Abbé Blazy. This work is one of the most charming of the many books dealing with the Beata. Written rather in a spirit of love of the saint than from a desire to edify, it edifies the more effectively; and it is refreshingly free from that 'busy-body' attitude which has marred a more pretentious work. For example, the Abbé does not hesitate to take his stand for François Soubirous' innocence in the matter of the accusation of theft—an expression of confidence for which the Beata herself must have been grateful. Mgr. Payne's translation is beautifully done. It reads like an original life, and has unusual grace of style. The illustrations, in default of better, might have been omitted.

A.M.H.

THE OLD TESTAMENT CALLING! By Lady Lindsey Smith. (Sheed and Ward; pp. 203; 5/- net.)

How the title repels one! Visions of 2L.O.! Read the book and you feel the title was the only adequate one. This is not a book for the reviewer, but for the reader to browse in. No one could review it, any more than you could review *Pickwick*. What is it all about? Hard to say. Perhaps 'The Old Testament and my soul' would express it. But there is nothing mawkish in it, no appeal to emotions, no pictures of the Patriarchs with halos, no belabouring of the obvious. No, you just seem to walk through the Old Testament hand in hand, now with Moses, then with David, then with Tobias—even with that hoary-headed but surely repentant sinner, Achab—and you learn. 'What do you learn? Read and you will discover for yourself. For to everyone the message will be different. 'It matters infinitesimally little *who* tells the story—it is *what* the story tells.'

H.P.