

Blackfriars

tells us frankly in the foreword that he has drawn on *Apuntes Biograficos del Padre Tarin*, Madrid, 1921, for his work, and *Apuntes biograficos*, 'biographical jottings,' it in a great measure remains. Possibly Father Dissard has written in French, and so the usual thanklessness of the translator's task could not be expected to gain in the third remove. Yet such is the fascination of Father Tarin's saintly figure that interest never flags throughout the book, slips, misprints, unfamiliar words, notwithstanding.

J.I.-B.

CINDERELLA. By the Wilfrid Ward Family. (Sheed & Ward; 1/6 net.)

It is pleasant and not new to act home-made plays in the holidays. It is much jollier, though, to do as the Wilfrid Ward family have done. They have dramatised a well-known story by threading together strings of quotations, parodies, and adaptations, contributed by all the members of the family and drawn from the works of Shakespeare, Sheridan, Chesterton, and 'a nameless multitude.' The result is excellent: it must please the most disinterested grown-up audience, and delight the children. *Cinderella* is the first of a 'Children's Theatre' series, which will be warmly welcomed, and the book must be sought, first as a charming play to act, and secondly as a first-rate model for private efforts.

R.R.

HOLY NIGHT. A Mystery Play by Gregorio Martinez Sierra, translated by Philip Hereford. (Sheed and Ward, 5/-).

This is a Nativity play, emotion guaranteed by every device of stage direction and arrangement, though not always assisted by the translator, e.g. in such a sentence as 'Where is there a dungeon in which to immure myself' from Madalena, a harlot. The original has been improved by the substitution of Old English carols and Latin hymns where music only had been indicated. Wood engravings, by Gabriel Pippet, adorn several pages. He has treated Our Lady and the Angels formally and, unfortunately, failed to give them life; the other characters and scenes he has naturalized, and succeeded. The formal and the realistic do not 'mix' well in the same picture. The play could not be acted by peasants, nor read by the poor, but, in a modern theatre during the Christmas season would be popular among the middle classes, otherwise it is Catholic and the publishers should not suffer loss.

H.D.C.F.