

## BOOK NOTICES

*Catherine.* By Sapiea Maule. Burns, Oates, and Washbourne, Ltd.—5/6.

A beautiful story for Catholic readers. It tells of the life and journeyings of a little English lad of the fourteenth century who wished to become a hermit. He was forced to become a page to his sister, but he ran away, and after many exciting experiences on the Continent succeeded in reaching Siena. This gives the author the opportunity of introducing Catherine Benincasa, the great St. Catherine of Siena, and of relating much about her miracles and visions, about the part she took in the struggle between the popes and antipopes of the time, and of her influence in bringing about the return of the Pope from Avignon to Rome. The atmosphere of the book is profoundly Catholic and there are many graphic descriptions of the home-life and travel conditions of those days when Christendom was Catholic.

*Pagan and Christian Rule.* By Dom Hugh Ravenel, O.S.B. Longmans, Green and Co., London.—5/6.

Those who have a taste for history or apologetics, or political science will do well to obtain a copy of this book. The learned author portrays in three parts Civil and Religious governance in the past: (1) Pagan Rule at its best (under Augustus), (2) Pagan Rule *versus* Christian Rule (under Theodosius the Great), (3) Christian Rule at its best (the thirteenth century), and in a fourth part treats of The Responsibility for the present state of Christendom, The Church and the Individual Mind, and The Church and the Nation. He supports his statements with abundant references to available contemporary documents, and he does what Hippolyte Bellier in the Preface says should be done: "In history we must abandon the defensive. We must carry the war into Africa. We must make our opponents understand not only that they are wrong in their philosophy, nor only ill-informed in their judgment of cause and effect, but out of touch with the past, which is ours."

*Meditations and Readings for Everyday of the Year.* By John Baptist Coyle, C.S.S.B. The Talbot Press, Ltd., Dublin.—5/6.

These meditations and readings (two of the former and one of the latter for everyday) are selected from the writings of St. Abbot Stanislaus, whose one great ambition, according to Benedict XV, was to make known to men the infinite admirability of Jesus Christ. The selections are admirable in every way, and are suited to the faithful of every condition of life. Every Catholic home should possess a copy to serve as an antidote to the rapid and sometimes harmful literature that is bound to find its way there; and it may even replace some spiritual books of the sugary sort that are occasionally met with. The present volume is the second of the series, and continues the year from Epiphany to the Septuagesima.

*The Jubilee Year.* By Rev. E. J. Mahony, D.D. Burns, Oates, and Washbourne, Ltd. Price, Eighteen.

Gives the full text of the Bull *Ineffabile Dei* proclaiming the Jubilee of 1925 together with a short account of the origin and history of

Jubilees, the nature of the Jubilee Indulgence and the conditions necessary to gain it, both at Rome and in other parts of the world. Priests will find in it much regarding their powers during Jubilee time, and a perusal of it will save them much time searching reviews and records or delving into the Code.

*In South American Waters.* By Thomas Coffey, B.A. H. M. Gill and Son, Ltd., Dublin. Price, 2/6.

A rather trite description of an uneventful voyage around the Horn and up the South American coast. The redeeming feature of the book is the Irish and Catholic spirit in which it is written.

*Edmund Burke as an Irishman.* By William O'Brien. H. M. Gill and Son, Ltd., Dublin.—12/6.

A valuable contribution to biographical literature by the author of *When We Were Boys*, etc., written in his own pleasing style. What is evidently his thesis, he announces in the first line of his Introduction: "Edmund Burke is the greatest Irish name in the history of civilisation; but even William O'Brien in the three hundred odd pages of the book fails to prove it. Burke was great; Burke was an Irishman; but Burke was not a great Irishman. However, he was

an Irishman, and its well to have that fact emphasised, because another nation has almost claimed him, and we seldom hear of him except as the great English statesman or orator.

*The Life of Cornelia Connolly.* Longmans, Green and Co., London.—7/6.

The ways of God are wonderful. Cornelia Connolly was born of Protestant parents, educated in the Protestant faith, happily married to a Protestant minister; yet by the workings of Providence, she became in time the foundress of a congregation for the education of Catholic girls. She was truly a wonderful woman, endowed with physical beauty and wonderful gifts of heart and mind. She attained a high degree of sanctity, probably on account of the sincere trials she had to endure—the greatest were from those of her own household—and because of her great spirit of prayer. All this is beautifully told in the abridged life, which has just been published. The book is most interesting, and moreover, can be classed as spiritual reading.

Catholic Truth Society Pamphlets.

*Eastern Catholics.* By W. L. Scott, K.C. St. Anthony.

*Marriage.* By Mrs. Wilfrid Ward.

## Town and Country News

## NAPIER NOTES

(From our own Correspondent.)

February 25.

Preparations are well in hand for the celebrating of St. Patrick's Day. It is to be hoped that the parishioners as a whole will support and help to make the feast of Ireland's Patron Saint a happy occasion.

Always to the fore, the parishioners of Taradale are working like the true Irish men and women they are, to make the "night" a success in this little township where St. Patrick's Day is enthusiastically celebrated.

During last week we bade good-bye to our good Father and friend, Father Heffernan, who was exceedingly popular with the young and old of the parish and a true friend to all. "The best of health and good luck go with you in your new surroundings, Father!"

The Marist Brothers' and the Convent schools are still closed as a result of the infantile paralysis epidemic.

I learn that we will have amongst us the Rev. Father O'Shaunassy, from Ireland.

The choir are getting into form for the forthcoming Easter festival under the baton of conductor Frank O'Shaunassy.

I notice in the congregation Sunday after Sunday, numerous parishioners who are more than fairly good exponents of the vocal art, and the question arises, why is it they fail to lend their voices to the choir? There is no sweeter or more beautiful music than that of our Church, which is recognised by the world at large as being the founder of all that is best in this connection.

A movement is on foot to promote a cantata choir for the Napier and Hastings branches of the Hibernian Society. It is to be hoped we hear more of this, as it forms

one of the means by which both branches are brought closer together and so tend to establish a firmer feeling of brotherhood.

## ROTORUA NOTES

(From our own Correspondent.)

February 24.

The usual fortnightly dances and "500" cards tournaments in aid of the new Convent School are still flourishing. One was held on February 9, the ladies' first prize being won by Mrs. Fairley, the consolation prize going to Mrs. Brothers. The gents' first prize was won by Mr. Dowie, and the consolation prize by Mr. Manchester. The following Monday, by special request, an extra evening was arranged. On this occasion the ladies' first prize was won by Mrs. J. Campbell; consolation, Mrs. R. Aitken; the gents' first prize, Mr. Manchester; consolation, Mr. Raethel.

After nine years' service in the local branch of the Native Land Court, Miss Mary O'Brien has been transferred to the Auckland office. Before leaving, the staff presented her with a handsome leather attache case. Miss O'Brien was also president of the Rotorua branch of the Children of Mary, so last Tuesday evening she was the guest at the banquet of the members of the sodality, who took the opportunity of bidding her farewell and asked her to accept a beautiful solid leather suit case as a mark of their appreciation. The following evening she was the guest at a dance in "Disieland" organised by some of her girl friends, when a very jolly time was spent; novelty dances, with streamers and confetti, being a feature of the evening.

Very Rev. Dean Lighthouse and Father Mink have returned after their annual Re-