

REVIEWS

WITH FATHER VINCENT AT MARBLE ARCH. By E. A. Siderman. (Blackfriars Publications; 2s. 6d.)

I remember when I was still at school finding myself one Sexagesima Sunday in Hyde Park just as Fr McNabb mounted the platform of the Catholic Evidence Guild. He announced his intention of speaking on the Gospel of the Sunday—the parable of the Sower. It was my first introduction to the Catholic Evidence Guild, and to Fr McNabb—and to the parable of the Sower, which I had already heard expounded an hour earlier at Farm Street and the same morning at Mass. I can still remember my disappointment when Fr McNabb announced his intention of speaking on this parable, but even to this day, I can remember what he said.

All those who ever heard Fr McNabb at Hyde Park will be very grateful for this memoir of treasured sayings and reported incidents which Mr Siderman has preserved for posterity. Many of these extracts will be remembered by those who heard them, almost in the very words which Mr Siderman has used. And those which we did not hear ourselves have the same authentic tone about them which make them ring true.

But this book will not only appeal to those who heard Fr McNabb. It will have an appeal to that much wider audience who knew him only by repute. Mr Siderman has given us Fr McNabb's considered opinions on most of the debated questions of modern times, on the rights and wrongs of the war, on Catholic education, on the duties of parenthood, the relation of the Catholic Church to modern movements in the world. It is a book which will have a very wide and popular appeal.

DANIEL WOOLGAR, O.P.

STUDIES IN RELIGIOUS POETRY OF THE SEVENTEENTH CENTURY. By W. L. Doughty, B.A., B.D. (The Epworth Press; 7s. 6d.)

Some idea of the nature of these studies of half-a-dozen seventeenth century poets can be gained from the titles which Mr Doughty gives to his essays: 'Religion under the Stars'—Vaughan; 'A Mystic in Half-lights'—Quarles; 'Cross and Crucifix'—Crashaw; 'The Scrutinix of the Soul'—Sir John Davies; 'A Cynic among Sectaries'—Henry More; 'Songs of Spiritual Felicitie'—Traherne. They are not simply literary criticism but precisely studies of religious poetry, by a writer eminently well equipped to appreciate, question and compare. Comparison is more often than not with the Wesleys, John and Charles; but the wealth and variety of Mr Doughty's allusions and quotations are remarkable.

The book is hardly an introduction, or at any rate not a simple introduction (if such be possible), to these poets. Rather is it one that will bring light and depth to the appreciation of those who already read them. Sir John Davies (1569-1626) is the least known