

THE STORY OF KNOCK. By Daniel O'Keeffe. (Mercier Press; 3s.6d.)

The increasing popularity of Knock as a shrine of our Lady has prompted yet another author to give the story of the apparitions which took place there seventy years ago. Mr O'Keeffe has succeeded in his endeavour to bring out the significance of these apparitions, though in doing so he has covered much ground that is familiar and perhaps a little tedious. *The Story of Knock* is a clear and simple account of those factors which have made the shrine one of the great centres of devotion to our Lady.

F.M.K.

MARY, THE BLESSED, THE BELOVED. By Timothy Harris. (Clonmore and Reynolds, Dublin; 7s.6d.)

Our Lady, as she appears in the liturgy of the Church, is the subject-matter of this book. The author aims at a better understanding of those events in our Lady's life which are commemorated in many of the great feasts of the year. He explains at some length the significance of the titles which tradition has conferred on Mary, the Mother of God. The style is remarkably good and the finished work is something that is at once doctrinal and devotional. Preachers, no less than the laity, will welcome it and find it of great value.

F.M.K.

BECAUSE YOU BELONG TO CHRIST. Six Broadcast Services. By Fr Gordon Albion. (Arundel Press; 3s.)

A broadcast Catholic service has to be of use for Catholics, for non-Catholic Christians of eclectic habits, and for stray unbelievers who have tuned in by accident or design and who would switch off if the broadcast showed any signs of agreeing with their preconceived ideas of what religious services are like. Fr Gordon Albion has come as near as anyone to fulfilling these three requirements. In language simple and dignified he speaks of the nature of belief, of prayer, of sin, of Christian charity and forgiveness. His own words are interspersed and illustrated by quotations from the Scriptures, from well-known prayers and hymns and from some undeservedly little-known sources (pp. 32 and 32-4 in particular). One wishes that he had been able to devote more time to the Eucharist, always a difficult subject to talk about to mixed audiences. The book is to be recommended for devotional purposes and will be very useful to those who have to expound the Faith, whether from the pulpit, in the class-room or to converts under instruction.

RICHARD BLUNDELL, S.J.

THE LAWS OF HOLY MASS. The General Rubrics etc. of the Roman Missal, translated into English by Joseph Francis (a priest of the diocese of Westminster). (Burns Oates; 7s.6d.)

The rubrics at the beginning of the Missal are usually thought of as an illegible mass of print in crabbed Latin. Yet they are a principal source of ceremonial law and the closer we stick to them,

the better. This book is a translation of the rubrics and other material (the sacred mathematics of the Calendar) found at the beginning of the Missal. The translation is good workman-like English and so far as we have tested it, accurate. The print is clear and the arrangement good. We hope it will introduce many students and priests to the arid but necessary study of rubrical law. The price is a little high for students.

J.D.C.

THE PRIEST'S PRAYER BOOK. Second Edition. By Christopher Wilmot, S.J. (Burns Oates; 12s.6d.)

A second and very much expanded edition of a little book of meditations for priests on the psalms for Sundays and festivals, published some years ago. The changes and additions are: the New Latin Psalter, the Hymns of the little Hours, with metrical and prose translations, and meditations, sometimes quite lengthy, on them.

The earlier edition was marked by its good sense and an intimate understanding of the priestly life. These marks remain, reinforced by the wider scope of the subjects treated. Perhaps the meditations have little relevance to their contexts and it would be a mistake to think this is a book about the Breviary and how to 'pray' it better. No matter. For what it is, it is a good and useful book which any priest will be the better for using. Incidentally, we are happy to be able to say for once that this is *not* a book for the laity, especially not for the pious nose-parkers who read books like this to see how far their parish priest falls short of the accepted standards of clerical piety.

J.D.C.

DIE LEHRE VOM CHRISTLICHEN VOLLKOMMENHEITSTREBEN. By Carl Feckes. (Herder, Freiburg; DM.14.50)

This very full and detailed study of Christian perfection written by a well-known German dogmatic theologian is intended mainly for seminary students. It will be particularly welcomed as a text-book of ascetical and mystical theology in a country where it has been so difficult for many years to publish books of this nature.

E.Q.

TANGO-TONGA. By Fr Ferdinand Valentine, O.P. (Bloomsbury Publishing Co. Ltd.)

This not very original children's story of the 'jungle folk'—Peggy the Python, Jerry the Giraffe, etc.—is only unusual inasmuch as it is given a religious tinge. The author even goes so far as to make rabbits pray to Our Lady. This seems a questionable way of inducing piety in the young, but the author, a learned Dominican, undoubtedly knows best.

S.M.F.