

to nothing with absolute certainty of the course of his life. There are only two original sources for St Benedict and his work: the Holy Rule, and the *Dialogues* of St Gregory'. Beginning his foreword with these words, the author continues, however, by drawing a vivid picture of the saint, his outstanding personality, his influence on medieval European culture. He does this without overstepping the limits he has recognised from the beginning and the result will stir enthusiasm for this great saint and his work, the Benedictine Order, which flourishes today as with a new spring. G.L.

THE MIRACULOUS PICTURE OF THE MOTHER OF PERPETUAL SUCCOUR. By Daniel Buckley, C.S.S.R. (Mercier Press; 10s.6d.)

Literary output follows much the same trends in the spiritual as in the secular realms. A certain subject is in the boom: everybody rushes something to press to 'cash in' on it—to climb on the 'band-waggon'. So a book on the well-worn if very worthy subject of 'Our Lady of Perpetual Succour' will gain much by catching the boom in Marian stocks for which Fatima in particular is responsible today.

This real resurgence of Marian devotion is one of the most consoling and hopeful signs of the times (otherwise so hopeless). It is too much to hope that we must not pay some penalty for the favours Mary is showering on the modern world, by not one or two but a host of manifestations in our own life-time. One of the normal penalties is this spate of second-class writing on this most sublime of subjects. We must, in the very genuine enthusiasm that is today, thank God, sweeping the world, be all the more careful about rival shrines, rival novenas, and rival books of propaganda. Fr Buckley's book certainly merits this last title.

One cannot but admire the thoroughness with which the Redemptorists have propagated knowledge of and devotion to this particular one of the many miraculous pictures of our Lady, which came so late into their possession. Nevertheless, no one need be carried away by the Cook's Tour with which Fr Buckley ends his book. Having lived or travelled in many of these countries, I have found the picture quite common as the result of Redemptorist Missions, but have certainly found nothing to justify the rather pretentious title of the last chapter, i.e. 'Everyone's Madonna'.

E. S. KLIMECK.

SAINTS WHO MOVED THE WORLD. By René Fülöp-Miller. (Hutchinson; 12s.6d.)

This is an outstanding book. In five chapters the story is told of the lives of five saints, and each chapter contains more than a mere biography. The lives of these four men and one woman (the first lived in the third, and the last in the sixteenth century) are pictured in a vivid background of the times in which they lived, and they stand out not only as vital personalities, but as the embodi-