

guarded treatment prepares the way for an *a fortiori* argument should historical facts prove more than the minimum necessary for the defence in the natural order of the postulates of revelation.

SILVESTER HUMPHRIES, O.P.

THE LITANY OF LORETO. By Richard Klaver, O.S.C. (Herder; 28s.)

'A book about our Lady' can mean so many things, on a dust-jacket, in an advertisement, even in the mind of the author who sets out to write one. In this case we are left in no doubt. It is a 'Mariology'. Father Klaver says in the foreword that he has aimed at 'a more or less complete Mariology in a novel guise'. It is a presentation of doctrine commonly held, Thomistic, relying in some points on Scheeben and Garrigou-Lagrange. The form—an essay on each of the titles of the litany—preserves it from the stunning effect of a text-book, and the matter is, by and large, as good as a text-book.

Two things matter, then, about this book. Is there plenty of good solid doctrine about our Lady? Is it readable (will it do for spiritual reading)? The answer in both cases is a decided affirmative. The book is good for the mind and the soul and the heart. What more could we ask of a book about our Lady?

A criticism or two, in the light of this, should not dissuade anybody from reading it. The terminology, generally very good (it is exceptionally difficult to be both accurate and readable on some points of Marian doctrine), wavers on the question of mediation. At first glance one might think it implied more than one can claim for our Lady—i.e. for any creature. The cautionary phrases are there, but single phrases, out of the context, would lend themselves to misunderstanding. Fr Klaver does not seem to be *au courant* with the recent controversy about the death (or alternatively immediate passing to heaven without death) of our Lady.

There is no index—a defect in so solid a book; and very little bibliography. Perhaps a future edition will remedy this. If so, one would like to see some reference, for the history of the Litany, to the work done by the American Servite, Mr Jacobosky, about twenty years ago.

GERARD M. CORR, O.S.M.

THE MOUSE HUNTER. By Lucile Hasley. (Sheed and Ward; 12s. 6d.)

Mrs Hasley is a gay and witty person, exuberantly American, fundamentally serious, in love with life and with her Faith, profound and yet uncomplicated. She was a Presbyterian who should have been a Catholic, and when she stumbled into the Catholic Church, it was without that soul-wrestling with which we are so familiar in conversion stories. In the same almost inevitable way she stumbled into