

One of the most interesting chapters is that on the abbeys of nuns of which Nonnberg has been always the chief. Claustal life has been continuous and we find that it is possible to live the Rule of St Benedict even in one of the chief cities of Austria.

Mention should be made of the Oblates connected with the abbey of Kremsmunster. These parish Sisters spend two years in their convent living a strict monastic life, with the Divine Office (Day Hours) recited in the vernacular. After this they are attached to parishes or other works. Their habits are always kept ready for the occasional visits and retreats they make from time to time to their convent.

Space will not permit mention of the many other interesting things contained in this book: of the land settlements of the Scots monastery in Vienna, of the centres of learning, retreats, liturgical weeks and places of pilgrimage. May it do much for the glory of God and for a true understanding of the work of St Benedict, whom the present Holy Father called 'the Father of Europe'.

DOM VINCENT DAPRE, O.S.B.

CONTEMPLATIONS Presented to the Dominican Tertiaries of Glasgow to mark the Silver Jubilee of their Chapter, 1924-1949. (Oxford, Blackfriars; 7s.6d.)

When that greatly over-rated sage, the Proverb-Maker, asserted that 'too many cooks spoil the broth', he cannot have foreseen an intellectual repast such as the one set before these Brethren of the Third Order of St Dominic on their Silver Jubilee. The ten dishes comprising it are tastefully presented and arranged in just the right sequence, so that a word of praise is due at the outset to the steward of the feast. The ten cooks bear names familiar to all readers of *Blackfriars*, and the variety of their contributions is the measure not only of the wide range of subjects dealt with by Dominican writers, but also of the wide range of interests of Glasgow Tertiaries. Philosophy, Theology, History, Devotions: there is food for all tastes and to suit all mental digestions. None of the papers exceeds ten pages of text—just enough to whet our appetites for more. The short sketch of Blessed Martin de Porres certainly does this, and we could do with more information too about Scottish Blackfriars in the sixteenth century when a Mass stipend was 'sex penyis, and a galown of the best sale ale of the town', not to say anything of the more solid fare served up by Father Ivo Thomas on 'The Logical Square and Modes of Categorical Syllogism'. Altogether a memorable meal, which does credit to Dominican Glasgow—and Oxford.

DESMOND SCHLEGEL, O.S.B.

BENEDICUS: VATER DER MONCHE. By Bonifaz Benzng. (Herder, Freiburg.)

'Whoever undertakes the biography of St Benedict, the Patriarch of monks, is severely limited from the very start. We know next