

been analysed, canalized, outlined in this book, will help us who have to live our lives for the most part unnoticed, undissected, without the direction and balanced precision which can come from a good spiritual director.

K. J. BARTLETT

AMBASSADOR IN CHAINS. By A. Lane, M.M. (Peter Davies; 15s.)

The early part of this life of Bishop Patrick James Byrne (1888-1950), Apostolic Delegate to the Republic of Korea, may be somewhat tedious to those whose interests do not lie wholly in the history of Maryknoll and the early character-forming years of Bishop Byrne, but one is gradually drawn on, in the development of the story, to the section in which the heroic life of the missionary comes into the foreground, an inspiring example of faithfulness to early inspiration.

The magnificent account of his work in Korea (1922), Japan (1934) and once more Korea (at the outbreak of hostilities there) forms the perfect missionary background.

Here is a story, remarkable in detail, of heroism and perfect resignation to the will of God, culminating in a vivid description of the Communists' 'death march' which led to Bishop Byrne's terrible end, in Ha Chung Ri, a few miles north of Chungan-jin. This final tableau is harrowing. He who had served Korea so faithfully in his earlier years and as Apostolic Delegate and Papal Ambassador to Korea, must die miserably in the 'People's Hospital'—a morgue, filthy, unheated, without beds, attendants or food. He who had longed as a little boy to be a missionary, and who said, 'It has always been my hope to give my life for our Faith, the good Lord has given me this privilege', thus found at once fulfilment and death.

Others too died on that 'death march', nuns, priests, soldiers, whose bodies were regarded as 'sport' for the Communists' guns.

It is a story calculated to inspire many a young man to seek suffering, and possibly death, on the foreign missions. The Maryknoll Fathers must be proud of this glorious chapter of their history.

K. J. BARTLETT

OBITUARY NOTICES OF THE ENGLISH DOMINICANS 1555-1952. By Walter Gumbley, O.P. (Blackfriars Publications. Paper 19s. 6d.; Cloth 26s.)

This valuable reference work opens with a historical sketch of the Dominican Order in England from 1555 to the present day, which occupies some twenty-odd pages and is followed by brief accounts of all those known members of the Orders, Fathers and Brothers who lived and died between 1555 and 1952. It is a severely factual work, which avoids temptations to ingenious conjecture or pious embroidery. The author disclaims any great credit, acknowledging his indebtedness

to a number of his brethren, beginning with that assiduous scholar, the late Fr Raymond Palmer, to whom all subsequent historians of the English Dominicans are indebted. Nevertheless the present work is plainly the fruit of meticulous care and industry over many years, and all who are interested in its subject will be grateful to Fr Walter and will turn to this book again and again. Browsing through its economical, unemotional statements is a fascinating way of forming an impression of the character and achievements of the English Dominicans since the Reformation.

ANTHONY ROSS, O.P.

### NOTICES

FOR those who are in their formative years *VALIANT ACHIEVEMENTS*, by Doris Burton (Burns & Oates, 12s. 6d.), is unmistakably useful. It is about great Christians of our own day. The freshness of youth, the candour of innocence, which sees the goal so clearly, almost undisturbed by the thought of dangers and difficulties, is bound to respond to the models of courage contained in the brief sketches of the heroines Miss Burton has selected.

SOMETHING perennial shines through every page of *THE LETTERS OF HENRY SUSO TO HIS SPIRITUAL DAUGHTERS* (translated by Kathleen Goldmann: Blackfriars, 4s.), so that present-day nuns—indeed, all who are drawn to God through religious life—will find great help in it. The letters to Elspeth Stigel receive particular attention. The modest price of the book brings sound teaching within the reach of all who realize that their goal is God, to be reached through the perfection of intellect and will. Each letter forms the basis of a practical meditation and through the whole group of letters a steady contrast is given to laxity and progress in the religious life.

For religious superiors, priests, Sisters in apostolic works, educators

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