

they have set themselves is a difficult one. The few works of this kind which we have read all seem to suffer from an excess of emotion and melodrama. Do men really sob so easily as they do in this book, e.g. on pp. 117, 129? However, we must not be too exacting; the book will, we are sure, do a lot of good by introducing a great and lovable saint to people who would be repelled by a heavier tome.

FR SEBASTIAN, O.F.M.CAP.

WELLSPRINGS OF THE FAITH. By The Most Reverend John C. McQuaid, Archbishop of Dublin. (Clonmore and Reynolds; 18s.)

This collection of Pastorals, discourses, addresses, covers so wide a field that it is impossible, as the Editor remarks in the preface, to summarize the doctrines considered. But a convenient division into Basic Christian Truths, The Great Means of Grace, The Last Things, Our Blessed Mother, and Educational Subjects will at least indicate the range. Every section is a refresher course in Christian Doctrine, good reading for young priests (and older ones) who act on the principle that sound doctrine is the best food for meditation and for sermons. If one must choose among such a galaxy of scholarly instructions, the long chapter on Catholic Education, its Function and Scope (pp. 187-206) is particularly interesting and contains memorable phrases worth pondering. From another point of view the chapter on sorrow for sin (pp. 111-122) will probably touch more hearts and directly influence more readers. The book is excellently produced and the marginal indications of the subject matter of each section make for easy reference.

G. M. CORR, O.S.M.

APPARITIONS. By Louis Lochet. (Desclée de Brouwer; 5 fr.b.)

This is one of the series 'Présence Chrétienne' and is fittingly subtitled on the cover 'Présence de Marie à notre temps'. The purpose of the book is to relate the authenticated and approved apparitions of our Lady to the religious history of mankind, to our understanding of our Blessed Lady, to our own modern spiritual life, to the history of the Church, to the design of God in all history: a typically French presentation, a glorified essay, and very well done. Its value may best be indicated by saying that it is a necessary background book for anyone writing on 'The Meaning' of any of the great shrines of our Lady. It will, or should, be read by many writers this coming year who will be expressing their thoughts on the meaning of Lourdes. Apart from the fact that the general principles which unify the meanings of all the appearances of our Lady are the main theme of the book, special attention is given to Lourdes. The author tries to describe Lourdes, which is impossible, but those who know it already will recognize it.

Literary and psychological insight are brought to bear to present this greatest of our Lady's shrines as an illustration and continual proof of the thesis that all our Lady's shrines are embodiments of a message of Jesus, the Word of God made audible, now as always, through Mary.

G. M. CORR, O.S.M.

SAINT PIUS X. By P. L. Occelli, s.s.p. (Browne & Nolan Ltd, Dublin; St Paul's Publications, London; 10s. 6d.)

This is quite a good example of the newer and healthier trends in more or less popular lives of the saints. Not indeed that there is need for legend or pious story to supply any deficiencies in our factual knowledge of such a recent saint; but this is an honest attempt to give the story of St Pius X in simple, straightforward terms, as it happened. As for pious stories, there are enough remarkable incidents in the life of such a man to make embroidery superfluous. Anyone who wants an informative yet not too elaborate account will find this a useful book. But it could quite easily have been something rather better. It is a pity that Americanisms could not have been smoothed out of this edition: 'program' is distracting to the English eye, while to read of Don Orione on the way to the Vatican 'stopping off' to go to confession puts one out of humour for whatever is to follow. More important, the note of edification—in the unfortunate sense—will creep in; and it becomes stronger as the story goes on and the life and achievements of Pius X become more and more amazing—and less and less in need of a pointing finger and an exclaimed 'how wonderful!'. This also gives the style a heaviness, as distinct from due seriousness, which is not relieved by an occasional 'noise' or excitability (this in one place obscures a very proper attempt to show how Modernism was faulty in itself, which is a pity). However, it takes more than such faults to obscure Pius X, who shines through this book as he does through the various and interesting contemporary photographs with which it is illustrated.

RACHEL ATTWATER

THE MAID OF ORLEANS. By Sven Stolpe. Trs. by Eric Lewenhaupt. (Burns & Oates; 25s.)

We tend to take St Joan of Arc very much for granted. The general lines of her story are familiar to us from childhood and it is easy to go no further than a vague picture, derived probably from early story-books, of an idealized young girl in armour carrying a banner. If we do get further it is perhaps only to wonder mildly at the mysterious ways of God, who raised up one of his saints to take a decisive part in a rather brutal and sordid medieval conflict—or in these days of 'total'