

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.

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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'