

THE PEOPLE OF OUR PARISH. By Lelia Hardin Bugg. Price
\$1.00. Marlier Callanan & Co., Boston., Mass.

This very desirable volume purports to be the chronicle and comment of Katharine Fitzgerald, pew-holder in the church of St. Paul the Apostle. It is in reality a collection of essays on various important questions concerning the rules and discipline of the Church and on other topics of general interest to lay Catholics. In a singularly pleasing style she inveighs against the greater offences of Catholics, makes no apology for the foibles of fashionable church attendants, and thus by her forcible and often original treatment of familiar topics affords not only a pleasant relaxation and diversion from weightier volumes but often pointed explanations of our rights and duties as Catholics. In fact the author but employs those twenty-two chapters to throw the flash light of a generous, sharp and pithy criticism on the social and religious status of the American church-goer. The moral lessons concerning parental responsibility in the matter of our Catholics Schools and Colleges, and the clever demonstration of the ill results of the public school system, commend the work to the discriminating parent, while the tone of reverence and admiration for everything Catholic is most edifying. The chapter entitled "A National Catholic Truth Society" outlines in brief the plan of work which originated with, and has since been adopted by Dr. W. F. McGinnis the founder of the I.C.T.S., (an explanation of which with its aims appears in this issue of our magazine). The work, however, is redolent of that Americanism which can find the realization of its ideals only south of the boundary, for the author seems to be totally oblivious of the fact that many of her hopes and aspirations find realization in that land which has been so inaptly termed "Our Lady of the Snows." To our conception it is rather indulgent and certainly extravagant to call Miss Repplier "the cleverest of American essayists." The talented author of "Essays in Miniature" is certainly one of the cleverest of American Catholic essayists. If the book is not striking it is not lacking in qualities of its own for considerable skill has been shown in the delineation of character, in analysis of motive and in depicting human nature.