

well versed in history or has allowed prejudice to blind his judgment, when he asserts that the ancient church to gain a hold upon barbarians, encouraged "blind belief and superstition." The fact that most of the great universities of the world were founded by her is sufficient to give the lie to this statement. To say also that the elevation of women and the spirit of chivalry that it produced were due to the influence of the Gothic peoples may be very romantic, but it is not history. This elevation is one of the noblest triumphs of Christianity, for it has been, we believe, an hitherto unquestioned fact that wherever paganism prevailed woman was the degraded slave of her stronger brother man.

BOOKS AND MAGAZINES.

Jubilee of the Oblates.—The proceedings of the recent celebration in Montreal in honor of the Oblates of Mary Immaculate on the completion of their first half-century's missionary labor in Canada, have been published in a very handsome memorial volume by the firm C. O. Beauchemin & Sons. The preliminary arrangements, such as organization of committees, issuance of invitations and preparation of programme, were in the hands of a number of the most prominent citizens of Montreal, and the great success of the celebration is due in a large measure to the enthusiastic efforts of these gentlemen. The ceremonies began on the 7th December and continued for three days. On the first day there was an address to the Provincial of Canada, Rev. Father Lefebvre, O.M.I., and replies by Archbishop Taché and the Provincial, followed by a grand procession. Solemn Pontifical Mass began the exercises of the second day, and an eloquent sermon was preached by the Rev. Father Guihot, S.S. An address was read to Archbishop Fabre to which he feelingly replied. In the evening a banquet was held in St. Peter's Hall at which many of the most eminent ecclesiastical and civil dignitaries of Canada sat down. Amongst the after-dinner speakers were Hon. Messrs. Chapleau, Mercier, Tassé, Robidoux, Loranger, McShane, Taillon, and others. On the following day the jubilee celebration was brought to a fitting close by a solemn requiem service for the

dead members of the Order. The press comments on the entire proceedings were lengthy and extremely favourable, such papers as *L'Eleveur* and the *Montreal Star* giving special prominence to portraits of the leading Oblates, and a history of their life-work in this country.

Ecclesiastical Canada.—Cadioux and Derome have issued their annual guide for the use of priests and people in Catholic Canada. This little book contains a vast amount of information and should be of great service to those who are in any way connected with ecclesiastical affairs. Besides some useful facts on the Universal Church, there are minute details on every Diocese, Apostolic Vicariate or Prefecture, and Religious Community of men or women in all Canada. Scarcely anything can be asked regarding the present position of the church in this country to which the answer cannot be found in this little volume. We can give it the heartiest commendation.

MacMillan's Progressive German Course, by G. Eugene Fasnacht.—The first year course in this series is a primer of the German language beginning with the alphabet and dwelling on the more important elementary principles of German grammar. Those who have wrestled with the difficulties of the irregular verbs in German will be interested in learning that the different conjugations are so arranged in this text book as to offer the least possible trouble to the beginner. The book well deserves its title of progressive, and should be an invaluable aid to any one studying German without a teacher. A copious double vocabulary greatly enhances the value of this first year course.

Missionary Record of the Oblates of Mary Immaculate.—Though the current number of the *Missionary Record* is but the first of Vol. II., we are pleased to note the following "present monthly issue 5,000." Such progress is indeed encouraging and the *Record* deserves all its success. The number to hand is extremely interesting to us on this side of the Atlantic. It contains a well-written and sympathetic memoir of Father Robert Cooke, O.M.I., one of the first Irish Oblates, while "The Oblates in Canada,"