

Book Review.

"Five of Diamonds," by Mrs. Gutherie published by W. L. Kilner & Co., Philadelphia, is a powerful and exciting novel. We are made acquainted with the workings of a secret society whose members call themselves the Brethren of Pure Light. One of its chief associates, Paul Rienoff, marries an English lady, bringing down upon himself for this act of disobedience the vengeance of the powerful five chiefs. His affection for his young wife turns into hatred, and on his way to exile into Siberia, whither the devoted Adela follows, he stabs her, to clear the way for his ambition. Too bad this ruffian is not punished more severely by the author; in fact he makes his exit as president of the great organization. Prince Victor's noble character and wonderful power is brought out well.

This book also teaches a healthy moral in graphically depicting the disastrous results of a hasty marriage, which is contracted from no higher motive than an affection that rests but on external attractions.

The reading of this book has been a real treat for us, and we have gained also interesting information on various subjects.

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"Hail full of grace"—simple thoughts on the Rosary—by Mother Mary Loyola; edited by Father Thurston, S.J.

This is an attractive title, and all who love our Blessed Mother, may expect beautiful thoughts and ardent aspirations in the series of meditations on her mysteries,—joyful, sorrowful and glorious.

Mother Mary Loyola's works are well known and deservedly admired, and no doubt this will also meet with a welcome. The considerations on the Passion are especially pleasing, and the texts of Holy Scripture well chosen and adapted. It is published in a very fine style, and most suitable as a festal gift. Publishers, B. Herder; price, \$1.35.

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La vie d'Union a Dieu et Les Moyens d'y Arriver—d'Après les Grands Maitres de la Spiritualite.—Abbe A. Saudrier, Paris, 1900.

This is an invaluable addition to the literary gems of Holy Church, and we earnestly recommend it to readers conversant with the French language, and, at the same time, express the hope that to those who are not so, a worthy translation may be presented. It is a resume of the teachings regarding prayer by saints and holy writers, from St. Clement of Alexandria down to contemporary authors. There seems, as it were, a golden thread of unity in these luminous thoughts and ardent aspirations, and it is that of tending to God by detachment from creatures and union with His Divine Will; the soul thus elevating herself, by His grace, to charity.

"The bond of perfection."

Amongst the Greek fathers, St. Denis and St. Ambrose especially delighted us, and amongst the Latin, St. Bernard's words seem, as it were, to exhale the sweetness of that Name whose melodious sound ever echoed through the cloisters of his heart.

There are luminous thoughts from St. Thomas (the angel of the schools), B. Henry Suso, Tauler, and other glories of the Dominican Order. From the heights of Alvernia, St. Bonaventure contemplated his seraphic father, St. Francis, and eloquently extols him as a model for contemplation. St. John, of the cross, and St. Teresa, shed glorious lustre over Carmel, and the Society of Jesus is represented by many illustrious names amongst whom we note: St. Alphonsus Rodriguez Pere Grou, and Pere Lallemand.

We are inclined to exceed the limits of a book notice, but at least once more earnestly recommend this beautiful work so calculated to elevate aspirations towards union with God, which is, even in this life, a foretaste of eternal blessedness.

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Eucharistic Elevations,—Rev. J. Fitzpatrick, O.M.I.

We desire to call the attention of readers to this small, but most devotional book, which, true to the title, cannot fail to elevate their hearts towards that "Dweller in the Tabernacle," who is our dearest friend, our only Beatitude.