

BOOK NOTICES.

ST. PAUL'S HYMN BOOK. Rev. L. Brennan, C. S. B., St. Michael's College, Toronto, Ont. 1889.

The question of congregational singing is drawing the greater attention of bishops and priests every-day. Father Young has proved historically in the Catholic World, where he has completely sifted the subject in all its bearings, that choir-singing is altogether a latter day innovation and that singing in which all join and which is so popular amongst our separated brethren is one of the few good things they have preserved from the time they were one with us. In Italy and France the people are perfectly familiar with the general offices of the Church, witness the fact of twenty thousand voices uniting in a grand *Te Deum* at a Thanksgiving Mass offered by the Holy Father in St. Peter's at the close of the year. The volume before us serves to propagate this grand old custom—a relic of truly Christian days. "The St. Basil's Hymn Book" is one of the finest we have ever seen being at once a Prayer-book, Hymn-book, Vespers and Sodality Manual for Sodality members who recite the little office of the Immaculate Conception. The selection of hymns made from the Breviary for the principal feasts of the year, commends it to colleges and schools. The hymns which number about two hundred are culled from many sources: but they are the choicest, all express some truth of the closest connection with the life of a Christian. Some of those hymns such as "Nearer my God to Thee," "Lead Kindly Light," "Prune Thou thy Words," which have been found almost as a rule in Protestant collections only, are in this book—and it is their proper place. If they have been composed by Protestants or one-time Protestants, they should not for this reason be excluded from Catholic hymn-books for whatever good is therein comes rather from the Christianity than the Protestantism of their authors. The work is printed in clear type and the lowness of the price places it within the reach of all. The publishers promise a companion volume to this one to contain the music for Vespers and hymns together with four masses.

THE JESUITS, THEIR APOLOGISTS AND THEIR ENEMIES, a Lecture by Rev. M. J. Whelan.

This neat little brochure embodies a lecture delivered on Feb. 24th by Rev. Father Whelan, Rector of St. Patrick's Church of this city. It is a most timely discourse, and its reproduction in pamphlet form will be the means of placing the Jesuits in the proper light before the Catholics and Protestants not only of the city of Ottawa but of the whole Dominion. We say advisedly before the Catholics, for many of us living as we do in a miasmatic atmosphere may not have been strong enough to resist contagion. To such as these and to all Protestants who can see in themselves any of the symptoms of the anti-Jesuit rabies, Father Whelan's lecture may be recommended as a potent remedy. The lecture begins by an explanation of the nature and aims of religious orders in general and the Society of Jesus in particular. Tributes from many Protestant writers, Leibnitz, Maitland, Macintosh and others are quoted to attest the beneficial efforts of these societies. The Constitutions and Government of the Jesuit order are clearly exposed, and the calumny which states that a Jesuit must obey his superiors even in things sinful, once more nailed. A brief sketch of the splendid missionary work performed by the Society is then given, and Dr. Littledale's testimony to the Jesuits' being "worthy of hearty admiration and respect" is taken at length from the not too intensely Catholic pages of the *Encyclopedia Britannica*. Dr. Littledale admits that there is no proof that the Jesuits were ever engaged in "concocting conspiracies, kindling wars and procuring assassinations," but says, "it is not easy to explain the invariable presence of a Jesuit in the back-ground, on any hypothesis which will secure the complete acquittal of the Society from charges of this sort." Is not this a most damning admission? For three centuries the enemies of the Jesuits have been seeking to implicate them in schemes of conspiracy and assassination and yet there are "no sufficient proofs." As to English Jesuits bringing upon their co-religionists the severities of penal law, Father Whelan points out that no Jesuit existed in England for twenty years after those cruel penal laws were in