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Shorter Notices: Talambuhay ng mga Santo

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what remote from its subject, was thought suitable by the author for describing the life of the poor miller's daughter, who had been favored with heavenly visions and during her last days was crushed like wheat under the millstone of exquisite suffering.

Few who read this book will agree with what was said at the time of her canonization, that St. Bernadette did nothing out of the common and was in no way remarkable for austerities. For she did have true visions—eighteen of them and more—and she was remarkable, if not for self-imposed austerities, at least for her cheerful endurance of the systematic humiliations to which she was subjected by those well meaning persons who could not understand how a poor peasant girl could have been so favored from on high. And then there was the silence with which she bore the torments of a horrible ulcer as long as she could, until at the last stage the heroic patience and fortitude with which she endured her long drawn out agony excited the admiration of the doctors and attendants, who could only look on with helpless pity.

A study of previous Lives, a good knowledge of Lourdes and environs and a protracted stay at the convent of Nevers prepared the author for her chosen task. As a novelist with a dozen works to her credit, she can make the Soubirous family live again in the single room on the ground floor of what had been a jail, cheerful and religious in their dire poverty. The accounts of how the visions took place, of the crowds of curious spectators at the grotto, of the opposition, cajoling and threatening of the police, of the prudential aloofness of the Clergy, of the final approbation of Ecclesiastical Authority and of the religious life during which Bernadette reached the goal of sainthood, are all well told and will be read with pleasure and profit.

HENRY A. COFFEY

SHORTER NOTICES

TALAMBUHAY NG MGA SANTO. Sinulat ni Padre Abriol.
Catholic Trade School, Manila 1957 Pp. xx, 434. Cloth ₱4.95
Paper ₱2.95

Talambuhay ng mga Santo is the fourth book written by Father Jose C. Abriol, parish priest of San Rafael, Isla de Balut, Manila. *Talambuhay* is an abridged adaptation of Butler's *Lives of the Saints*. Written in polished yet readily readable Tagalog, it contains in one compact volume the whole liturgical year. Each entry is pleasantly brief, wastes no words in moralizing, gives in a phrase or two, pertinent and sometimes sparkling facts about the saints. At the end of each entry, three to five lines of small bold print suggest a lesson for the day. The book will be useful for catechists and for busy parish priests. It will suit almost any use—readings for national language classes and short spiritual reading for lay people.

CARLOS H. ABESAMIS

THE CITIZEN'S POEMS. By Amado Yuson. Guagua, Pampanga. Commercial Press. 1956. Pp. 136

MR. YUSON is a member of the British Poetry Society a distinction which he shares with his son Virgilio. He is a member of the Gallery of Living Catholic Authors (U.S.A.) This little volume of verses has received much commendation from literati in England and the United States, including Carl Sandburg who says: "I have been impressed by the spirit of struggle and the reverence for liberty that weaves through the pages." What the critics praised was Mr. Yuson's fervor—for God, for country, for justice.

In poetic quality and technique these verses are quite deficient. But for Grade School use, these verses will be found appropriate because of the sentiments they express. There are moreover two pieces which deserve commendation, both of which are translations from Rizal's Spanish.

M. A. B.