BLACKFRIARS

(With which is incorporated *The Catholic Review*)

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Vol. XV, No. 176. November, 1934.

EDITORIAL

JIGSAW PUZZLES, unlike most other similar pastimes, came once and have stayed. They minister to the need of the normal human mind, which delights to seek the solution of a puzzle. Aristotle wisely observes that all men of their nature desire to know, and that wonder is the beginning of all philosophy. And what is philosophy but a rational attempt to solve the puzzle of creation? The instinct that urges to the solution of a jigsaw puzzle is that which produces the scientist; we are all detectives by instinct. But the jigsaw enthusiast has one notable advantage over the natural scientist: he knows that each piece of his puzzle is part of a complete whole, that it has one place only in which it fits, but there it will fit perfectly, that it is futile to force a piece or to leave it unplaced. The scientist, while dealing faithfully with the man or the tree or the sky, is apt to overlook the fact that these are but details of a great canvas painted by a divine Artist. The jigsaw solver is more wise, and if someone can tell him what the complete picture represents he can omit much of the initial casual experiment and begin immediately to group pieces in an intelligent fashion. In view of the general megalomania we wonder that someone has not produced an enormous jigsaw to be worked out by a whole team of experts; indeed, it might well prove a useful pictorial method of

https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1741-2005.1934.tb03798.x Published online by Cambridge University Press

correlating as well as teaching individual subjects to children. Form masters could direct the activities of their own pupils and the head might govern the assembly of the various sections.

This talk of jigsaws is not so out of place as might at first appear. It is occasioned by a recent communication from the Catholic Truth Society, which, by happy chance, announced at the same time the near approach of the Golden Jubilee of the Society and the publishing of jigsaw puzzles for the instruction of children in the Life of Our Lord. Man's desire to know resolves itself into an attempt to solve some or all of the mysteries of creation; his wisdom is graded according as he recognizes or fails to recognize the relation of one or more mystery to the whole. For creation is a complete unity, somewhat in the fashion that a jigsaw puzzle resolves itself into a complete unity; the myriad facts dovetail into one another, as do the pieces of a puzzle; this is guaranteed by the wisdom of the Creator. Further, granting the fact of supernatural revelation, the revealed truths combine with natural truths to form a still more complete, though far more mysterious union. Even the purely natural mosaic of truth is practically incomprehensible, in its fullest extent, to the unguided human mind; add the realm of the supernatural (in which nature is perfected by Grace) and the need of a completely informed and authoritative guide becomes essential. Catholic Truth (the *Veritas Catholica* of the *Contra Gentiles,* and not merely the purely supernatural truths) alone covers the whole ground, and the divinely appointed guardian and exponent of Catholic Truth, the Church, is alone in the position to order the pieces and groups of pieces to the re-fashioning of the picture in accordance with the eternal idea in the mind of the Creator.

The Catholic Truth Society needs no praise from us. Its crown of golden laurel leaves is provided by the two thousand and more magnificent pamphlets, on many facets of Catholic Truth, already issued. Each of the thirty-seven million copies of these pamphlets which have been sold represents a powerful tool for the spread of truth. To continue the analogy we have used, each of them is a numbered and correlated piece or section in the great puzzle that all wise men are trying to solve. Each has something of

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the authority of the Church and clearly recognizes the inter-relation of all the aspects of Catholic Truth. While offering our cordial congratulations to the C.T.S., we sincerely hope that these fifty years are but the promise of a long life, of an unceasing activity and growth throughout the world, and of a yet more fruitful apostolate.

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Following the many favourable notices of BLACKFRIARS *that continue to appear in the Catholic Press, both here and abroad, we are emboldened to think that this Review warrants a much wider circulation. We are informed that it is, as indeed we intend it to be, of immediate and practical value to Catholics at large and not without appeal to many enquiring minds outside the Church. We feel, consequently, that all these should be given an opportunity of judging for themselves of its worth. In these circumstances we venture to suggest that our readers who share this view should introduce* BLACKFRIARS *wherever possible, either by passing on their copies or, better, by sending the names and addresses of likely readers to the Publishers, who will gladly forward specimen copies free of cost.*

Copies of BLACKFRIARS *from July onwards are still obtainable as well as a reprint of the memoir of Father Bede Jarrett by the Very Rev. Bernard Delany, O.P., Provincial, though the May issue in which it appeared is unfortunately exhausted.*

EDITOR.

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