



The Unfinished Universe. By T. S. Gregory. 343 pp. Sheed & Ward, New York. \$3.00.

This book is a challenge to all men,—to men concerned with theology or unemployment or peace or the race-problem, and above all to men who say their prayers.

T. S. Gregory calls this book the story of his conversion. The process brought him back to Greek philosophy only because "since the Reformation and as a consequence of it, Europe has steadily returned to the mental habits of Greek antiquity. . . ." Studying that age, he found the Gentile world wanting even as our own. The self-sufficiency consequent upon a finished universe spelled its doom. Not till Christianity redeemed it was there any hope. With the coming of schism and heresy, particularly that of Luther and the heresiarchs of the Protestant Revolt, the City of God suffered violence. In this instance, however, the violent did not bear it away; rather they found themselves with a finished universe, narrow and confined. So again, the logical conclusion from such premises as theirs was self-sufficiency. Man is the measure of all, nothing the measure of man.

Today as yesterday, we must make a choice of either a real, religious, and unfinished universe open to the supernatural (wherein man is a real cause and events really happen), or an idealistic, magical and finished universe closed to the supernatural (wherein man, universe state and God are at one time or another identical). It amounts to a choice between God and mammon. If one faces the alternatives and weighs each in the balance, one cosmology will be found wanting. The author, as any right thinking man, has discovered that the idealistic and magical is self-destructive. Truth lies in the real, in Thomism and Rome. Yet if this book does nothing but convince the reader of the insufficiency of self-sufficiency, then it has been a boon.

Some of the early chapters are very heavy reading and at times natural and supernatural theology seemed to be confused. The book does not expound the faith in full, since the author's purpose is to show that parts of the faith vehemently or complacently rejected

"stand in it not only by logical coherence but as real instruments of that eternal mercy which brought God to earth." Yet the intellectually aloof may, after reading it, if their cervix is not too paralyzed with pride, be brought to 'knock' at the door of Rome. R.A.

Heaven and Charing Cross. By Rev. Ronald Knox. vi-90 pp. E. P. Dutton & Co., Inc., New York. \$1.25.

Between the covers of this tiny book are secured some of the most precious and practical thoughts that have been recently written concerning the Holy Eucharist. They are precious since they reassert the infinite wealth of the doctrine of the Blessed Sacrament; they are practical because within the nine sermons which enclose them some particular message of the social and spiritual extent and value of the Holy Sacrament is emphasized.

The first five sermons concern themselves with five dominant urges of mankind. Peace, happiness, fellowship, social salvation and contentment are the quest of humanity, particularly of present day humanity. Yet none of these demands, so insistent in everyone's life, can be adequately satisfied until they be properly appraised. Father Knox evaluates them duly by resolving them all into that inherent desire of man to satisfy his hungry heart. Then in each of the five sermons he proceeds to explain that the Eucharist alone can effect peace among men since it unites them not only with themselves but also with God. Consequent to such peace will be the fulfilment of the other four desires, because the transcendent peace of communion with God and man necessarily demands happiness, fellowship, social salvation and contentment.

The four final sermons consider the spiritual rather than the social aspect of the Eucharist. These aptly emphasize why the Eucharist must be adored because it is universal, must be communicated because it is individual, why its spiritual sustenance is timeless and not timely, how its recipients, however unworthy they will ever remain, yet should communicate since they can be presentable, and finally why the Blessed Sacrament blesses through its presence, propitiates God for our sins when it emerges from the consecration of the Mass, and even serves ourselves when it is administered to us at the altar rail.

The manner of Father Knox's presentation of these admirable and instructive thoughts is engaging and interesting. He recreates from vivid incidents of the Old and New Testament scenes which attend his teaching with dramatic background as well as with assuring evidence of how deeply the doctrine of the Eucharist is contained in

the Bible. Neither the clergy nor the laity should ignore these sermons of Father Knox, since they will remind both in a clear and ruggedly-hewn style of the invaluable significance today of the Blessed Sacrament in their lives.

B.L.

Foundations of Morality. By Rev. Ludwig Ruland. Adapted into English by Rev. T. A. Rattler, O.S.A. 378 pp. B. Herder Book Co., St. Louis, Mo. \$3.00.

This is the second in a three-volume series, the third of which is to appear shortly. The author is the distinguished professor of Moral and Pastoral Theology in the University of Wurzburg. In his first volume, *Pastoral Medicine*, the reverend author presented in most readable form the symptoms, remedies and cure of mental and physical disorders as well as considerations which enter into the spiritual guidance both of the pastor and of his flock. Dr. Ruland intends in this second volume to help priests find their way from the knowledge of theoretic principles to concrete realities of life. The supernatural ever presupposes the natural; hence the priest ought to be thoroughly familiar with man and his world.

The content of this work is culled not merely from 'experience' but from the intensive research made by Father Ruland over a long period of years. We have here, as a consequence, a wealth of matter and easily assimilable information for the use of preachers and lecturers. There is an excellent chapter on personality treated from both the cultural and the theological viewpoint. His chapters on prayer and the sacraments present fine resumés of these all important subjects. What little there is of bibliography is included in the text itself. This work, like the first volume, is as modern as it is instructive, and the translation is fluent.

L.S.C.

Modern Thomistic Philosophy. Vol. II. *Metaphysics*. By R. P. Phillips, D.D., M.A. xii-400 pp. with bibliography and index. Burns, Oates & Washbourne Ltd., London. 9s.

The first volume of this work was reviewed in the March issue of *DOMINICANA*, 1935. The second volume, entitled *Metaphysics*, which completes Dr. Phillips's work on Modern Thomistic Philosophy, comprises *Epistemology*, *General Metaphysics (Ontology)*, and *Natural Theology*. Among others things Dr. Phillips takes up the problem of Skepticism, the trans-subjective value of knowledge, the hotly contested distinction between essence and existence, and Divine foreknowledge and motion. Although brief, his treatment of the matter is clear and to the point, and he adheres strictly to the Tho-

mistic tradition. He assumes a common sense view of Thomism in its relation to the other systems: "Fortunately it is not our business in this summary to decide that the suit cut by St. Thomas fits the world perfectly . . . but merely that the Thomist garment fits well. Those who follow the leadership of St. Thomas, do so because they are convinced that he had a clearer vision of the nature of reality and penetrated into it more deeply than others; from which it by no means follows that authors of other Philosophical systems were blind."

The Scholastic reader of this volume will take exception to the numerous protestations of the author that it is impractical to go more deeply into the questions discussed because of the limited scope of his summary. One begins to feel that thoroughness was sacrificed for brevity. The book is intended to be "a somewhat more detailed explanation in English of Metaphysical philosophy contained in a single book," with the hope "that it may be found useful for those who are professedly making a study of Scholastic philosophy." That its author succeeded in this is apparent to any reader acquainted with Thomistic Doctrine; but he would have presented the public a much more vital work with a more universal appeal, had he had not shied away from more exhaustive discussion. If Dr. Phillips had included a treatment of Logic and Ethics (in which there are any number of modern problems) the volume would take its place among the few adequate English works on Thomistic Philosophy.

Special mention is due to the chapter entitled "Experimental Science and Philosophy," in which the author outlines three general views of the nature of the natural sciences, with their variations in the face of new scientific discoveries and theories. He completes the discussion by laying down principles which enable one to discover the theory most in accord with Thomistic thought. Another interesting feature is a synopsis of the application of the Thomistic doctrine of potency and act to practically the whole realm of philosophical thought.

R.M.G.

Fontes Vitae S. Catherinae Senensis Historici. I. Edited by Fr. M. Hyacinth Laurent, O.P., and Professor Francis Valli. 69 pp. University of Siena, Siena, Italy.

For several years the University of Siena has maintained a Chair of Catherinean Studies devoted to the critical interpretation and editing of all the source documents which throw light upon the religious and political problems confronting Saint Catherine during her life. These documents, carefully criticized by competent histori-

ans, make one of the most important and indispensable sources for historical research work, not only in the life of St. Catherine but also in the religio-political, cultural, and economic matters which regulated the life of the fourteenth century Italy.

Father Laurent and Professor Valli, appointed to the task of collecting and editing Catherinean documents, are eminently fitted for the work entrusted to them by the Master General of the Dominican Order. In the present brochure, *Historical Fonts of the Life of St. Catherine of Siena*, they place before the historian twenty-four well-annotated documents, letters, and Papal Rescripts. They list even the names of the Sisters of the Third Order of Penance who were in close association with Catherine or had any bearing upon her life.

Twenty-one of the documents are written in Latin and three in the Italian of the Quattrocento. Reading them, one is carried back to the colorful fourteenth century. Court gossip and commerce, religious discipline and diplomacy, politics and petitions, popes, priests and, not the least, Catherine herself, all find a place in the 69 pages of the publication. There are several rescripts of Popes Gregory XI and Urban VI, all directly concerned with Catherine. Other letters from court officials, Religious Superiors, and ambassadors, permit us to penetrate into the psychology of the latter part of this eventful era.

These documents will prove valuable to the historian and the hagiographer; to the first because he has the assurance that they have passed through the fire of critical research; to the latter because he will be able to see (and therefore write about) a woman who, though raised to the greatest mystical heights, nevertheless remained practical and human.

U.C.

The Secret of Saint John Bosco. By Henri Ghéon. Translated by F. J. Sheed. 203 pp. Sheed & Ward, New York. \$2.00.

Henri Ghéon favors us again with one of his delightful stories of a hero of God and as usual he tells more than a mere story. This time he depicts the living personality of the captivating patron saint of youth, St. John Bosco, and makes him live again before our eyes. Whether struggling for an education as the son of a poor widowed mother on a farm, or making a home for the wayward and homeless boys of the city, or founding a Religious Order, Don Bosco is pictured as he always was, intensely human. His path to holiness was a difficult one not unlike our own. In fact, much of the opposition he met and many of his trials differed from ours only in the way in which they were met.

The author excellently portrays the many-sided character of the Saint, showing that his one aim in life was to develop and perfect himself in every respect. M. Ghéon really gives us a summary of his book when he says in the form of a modest desire: "What the memory of Don Bosco really clamours for is not a book, but a film—an immense popular film, packed with adventures, games, dreams, miracles, with fields and vineyards, sordid slums, shameful hovels and all the misery of children abandoned to their own perversity; and over all the great pure breath of joy that came from the lungs of the little farm boy and scattered the mists."

Many thanks are due to the translator for his fine work. He has ably preserved the simple and interesting style of the author, so that it will appeal to every boy. Those who have the care and direction of youth will find inspiration and help in its pages. E.C.L.

The Battleground. By Hilaire Belloc. 336 pp. J. B. Lippincott Co., Philadelphia, Pa. \$4.00.

If there is such a thing, the land embracing Syria and Palestine is the land of destiny. Within its confines prehistoric man lived; incarnate divinity trod its earth; war has drenched its soil with the blood of countless men. Hilaire Belloc has chosen this as the scene of his latest historical study, and inextricably bound up with his choice are the records of God, men, and carnage. But, because "it has been the place of meeting and of shock between opposing cultures and men, of conflict between those forces which sweep and mould the world beyond all others, which are supreme above all others, those sources from which all culture flow—religion, it is a Battleground."

Before man, nature itself warred in Syria, for it was "the battleground between the desert and the rain." With the entrance of man into history the struggle began. Egypt, Israel, Persia, Greece, Rome, all at one time or another left their imprint upon the country. Later "in the fulness of time came the flower of our Revelation, the kindling of the Gospel, the founding of the Church . . . and from that day onward, that battleground became a battleground indeed." In the cause of Christianity and her sanctuaries came Godfrey of Bouillon, Louis of France, Richard of England. But the Crusades, "that splendid effort—the last effort," failed. They failed, for "in truth under the conditions of that day the victory was impossible. Syria could not be recovered. . . . Numbers, recruitment and communications were all three insufficient to the task."

Within the past century "it saw the bayonets and heard the guns of Napoleon." In our own day it has come under the domination of

France and Great Britain. How long will this dominion last? "Western rule, atrophied of religion, has to maintain itself in the face of hostile millions who, on their side, have not lost the religion which made them and by which they live. The French and English officials, the armed forces which obey them (and these are not numerous) stand isolated in the midst of a sea of Islam all around. . . . The same force which destroyed the Crusades is present in Syria to-day, and it is as active as ever. It is disarmed, or partly disarmed on the material side; but spiritually it is sufficiently armed." A.J.S.

Mexican Martyrdom. By Wilfrid Parsons, S.J. 304 pp. with index. The Macmillan Company, New York. \$2.50.

Mexican Martyrdom is a calm and restrained account of the heartbreaking history of the Church in Mexico during the past ten years. But it is more than that. It is an attempt to assign the causes and, in so far as this is possible, the effects of the relentless persecution that is striving to club the life out of Catholicism in Mexico.

The author writes with the express intention of answering the question that is beating in the hearts (though fear of an unfavorable answer keeps it from the lips) of the whole Catholic world. Will the faith in Mexico be destroyed? Can the country which is over ninety-five percent Catholic and to whose people, in the words of the author, "the division of one's soul into two separate parts, one purely secular and the other purely religious, is incomprehensible," withstand such a persecution as that under which England failed and Ireland emerged victorious?

Although in his closing words Father Parsons seems to leave the answer to the reader, he does not do so in fact. Only one reply is possible after the exposition of a history during which the reader wonders whether it is hatred of the persecution or pride in the fortitude of his Mexican brothers that moves him more.

Father Parsons points out to Americans who are too ready to picture Mexican history as the history of a backward and listless people, the interesting fact that one hundred and fifty years ago, "Beside Mexico's splendors of architecture, painting, sculpture, libraries, and lecture halls, the puny efforts of a century and a half in our own Colonies were like little backwoods villages of clapboard and shingles."

The author mentions in passing an incident that deserves more than passing mention. It was due to Father Parsons' own watchfulness and promptitude in acting that the Mexican Government

lost the radio time on an American chain over which they had already begun to disseminate their pernicious doctrines. W. J. C.

Laws of Life. By Halliday Sutherland. 270 pp. Sheed & Ward, Inc., New York. \$2.50.

In *Laws of Life*, Dr. Halliday Sutherland writes about the fundamental laws which govern and regulate nature. The doctor writes vigorously. Most certainly, frankness and a rational outlook are his chief characteristics. Both as a physician and as a man he has witnessed so much unhappiness and misery resulting from ignorance relative to marriage, divorce, etc., that he is justified in maintaining this attitude. As a source of enlightenment in harmony with Catholic doctrine the book is outstanding.

From the practical counsels given to those contemplating marriage, one would almost be tempted to wager that the doctor is a bachelor. "The real urge to marry should be love, a psychological attraction of mind plus physical attraction of body plus an aesthetic attraction of personality." Each should know beforehand what the other thinks on every subject from religion to breakfast. Again, the doctor has a special dislike for a mere physical infatuation, and rightly so. He maintains "the basis of a happy married life is 75% companionship and 25% physical attraction." From a practical point of view, women should regard marriage as men regard their business—a thing to be made a success. Much discomfort and even unhappiness would be avoided if women seriously prepared themselves beforehand to be wives and to be mothers.

Chapters on such vital topics as the use and abuse of alcohol, the next war, and euthanasia, provide helpful and informative reading. *Laws of Life* will attract an unusual body of readers: those intending to marry and those pursuing sociological studies.

W.G.M.

Monsignor. By Doran Hurley. 305 pp. Longmans, Green and Co., New York. \$2.00.

It has been said that ambition was the fault of the angels, but when ambition is analyzed it appears far from being an angelic fault. It lacks the superb grandeur that an angel would possess when it errs. This book is an attempt to expose the ambition of a priest, Matthew Flanagan, explain it away if not excuse it. The endeavor, however, is so superficial that it caricatures rather than characterizes the subject. Matthew Flanagan, as a priest, should have superseded the angels in his endeavor to satisfy the gnawing urge to achieve his

ambitious desires. But the Matthew Flanagan of this novel never passes beyond the threshold of mundane opportunism when he secures a bishopric for himself.

The author endeavors to see Matthew Flanagan through the priest's own eyes, through the eyes of his parishioners and through the eyes of his sacerdotal colleagues. But when Matthew Flanagan peers into his own consciousness and conscience, he finds himself lost as does the reader, too. Nor is the viewpoint of the laity any aid either to the author or to the reader to discern what manner of man Matthew Flanagan may be, for both judge him with superficial unimpressiveness. Neither do his fellow priests, as they filter through the narrative, soften any of the harsh lines of the caricature which presents Matthew Flanagan.

If a critic may be allowed to suggest anything to aid a novelist in his craftsmanship, it should be suggested to Doran Hurley that there always lurks behind the most obvious acts of a priest a deep significance. Unless this fact be realized any attempt at dimensional portraiture of a priest can never be achieved. The more surface of a priest's life is too restrained and inarticulate to provide itself as matter for literary expression. It is not what a priest does that the novelist has to explain but why the priest acts as he does.

However, the novel is of value for leisurely reading. It amuses occasionally and it seldom offends anyone. It deserves to be commended to the attention of the average reader, for within it is woven an interesting tale.

—B. L.

Our Theatre Today. Edited by Herschal L. Bricker. xxvii-415 pp. S. French, New York. \$3.00.

Arthur Hopkins, Brock Pemberton, Alfred Harding, Irving Pichel, Priestly Morrison, Melville Burke, Barrett H. Clark, Aline Bernstein, Cleon Throckmorton, Stanley R. McCandless, Bertram Harrison, Louis Erhardt and Tamara Daykarkhanova, among the bluest of Broadway blue bloods, have collaborated to make up an entertaining and, in places, enlightening handbook on the art, craft, and management of our contemporary theatre. Their papers come under four general classifications: History; Plays and Production; Stage Direction; Stagecraft. If the reader desires a full view of the contemporary theatre as well as of its history and the many arts and crafts by which it is served, he has a means of obtaining it in the well-classified bibliography appended.

Enough fields of the theatre are covered, but each field is not exhaustively treated, or better, the exhaustive material given with re-

gard to each field is not synthesized sufficiently. The extensive chapter dealing with the history of the theatre may be condemned from the student's point of view because of the author's use of secondary sources. It is true that he is not attempting a scholarly work, but his method is one which often leads to error; and where error previously stood, it now becomes more deeply imbedded. The interpretation of the Church's attitude would not square with the facts brought forth by a study of primary sources. One feels that the treatment of the Church's contribution must be read with tongue in cheek.

The task was difficult, but the author has succeeded in acquainting the reader with new names and new places that have to do with the theatre's dramatic growth, from the poetical productions of Thespis held within Athens' walls to the international Little Theatres and College Theatres that dot the civilized world today.

Particularly to be praised are the two chapters and the appendices dealing with stage lighting. S. R. McCandless and Louis Erhardt give the reader a detailed description of the function of light in relation to play presentation. Their exposition of this newer medium for histrionic expression grasps the imagination and takes it soaring into dreams of things to come. They make one earnestly wish for the full development of stage lighting, which will be for the theatre what television will be for the radio, and the capture of color for motion pictures.

V.F.H.

An Augustine Synthesis. Arranged by Erich Przywara, S.J. xvi-496. Sheed & Ward, New York. \$4.00.

This book is an excellent collection of short texts from the works of Saint Augustine. The arrangement was made by Father Przywara, S.J., who hoped to catch in one volume sufficient of the thought of Saint Augustine not only to make it useful to the theologian, but also to introduce new readers to this venerable Father of the Church. Today the tendency is to read only the works of modern authors. A few become acquainted with the more eminent Doctors of the Church, but few indeed are those who know anything at all of what the Fathers taught. Yet it is they who are the Masters of our Faith. This alone should make attractive this English translation of texts from Saint Augustine.

C.M.F.

Virtues and Vices. By Garrett Pierce, D.D. xvi-403 pp. Brown & Nolan, Ltd., Dublin. 7-6.

This rather unwieldy volume is, in the words of its editor, "pri-

marily a scientific study in Theology." The author, who died before his work came to press, was a professor of Theology at St. Patrick's College, Maynooth, and was familiar with a vast field of literature on his subject, as the copious bibliography at the end of the book attests. His aim, as expressed in the preface, is to follow the principles and method of St. Thomas, presenting the traditional Christian teaching on the virtues and vices in the light of modern problems.

In much, however, he differs from the method of the Angelic Doctor, and so often throughout the volume does he depart from the expressed teaching of Aquinas that the work does not merit to be called Thomistic. On the nature of virtue, on its subject, concerning the differences of souls, on the eminence of pain, the author seems unaware of St. Thomas' teaching. Concerning the nature of the beatitudes, his doctrine is dismissed as "interesting but unconvincing." Concerning the latter (p. 64), Thomas is quoted as following St. Augustine "with some misgiving." Actually, he (1-11, 69, 3) uses a not ordinary superlative to express the aptness of Augustine's opinion. These are examples in point.

For a "scientific work in Theology," the references are very poor—also very annoying. Little use is it to cite the authority of St. Thomas and give as a reference the *Summa Theologica*. In general, the book is poorly written. Sentence structure remains monotonously the same throughout, and careless distribution of matter makes some sections very dull reading. Much of this, it would seem, is due to faulty editing. The book, evidently, is the fruit of long years of reading and note-taking, but it should have been edited more severely.

F.M.M.

DIGEST OF RECENT BOOKS

CANON LAW: The Pastor and Marriage Cases, by the Rev. Matthew Ramstein, O.M.C., D.D., J.U.D., a work intended "as a ready guide to the legislation of the Code, and post-Code decisions of the Holy See, on marriage," is divided into two parts. The first deals with the canonical preparation for marriage. The distinction of the work is found in the second part, in which a discussion in general terms of marriage trials and processes is followed by a more detailed consideration of six special but common cases, viz., disparity of cult, ligamen, clandestinity, the Pauline Privilege, the so-called Montana case, and *ratum et non consummatum* cases. (Benziger Bros., New York, N.Y., \$2.00.)

SCRIPTURE: The learned Msgr. Bandas is eminently equipped to treat biblical questions. Owing perhaps to the number of problems he here discusses, parts of the volume are as solid and synthetic as class notes. A few of the questions are impractical and their solutions suggest

other difficulties which are not solved in this book. **Biblical Questions** is a ready reference book for all students of the Sacred Scriptures. (St. Anthony Guild, Paterson, N. J., \$1.00.)

DEVOTIONAL: In its **Missal For Sundays**, the C. Wildermann Co. has made a valuable contribution to the fostering of the liturgical movement. The volume is attractive, compact, and complete. There is an illustrated introduction which explains the various things used in the celebration of Mass. In addition to the Ordinary and Propers, there are morning and evening Prayers, devotions for Confession and Holy Communion, and Vespers for Sunday. Not the least notable of its features is its price, twenty cents a copy. The cheapness of the volume and its strong binding should induce those in charge of children to place it in their hands. (C. Wilderman Co. Inc., New York, N. Y.)

Holy Week contains a series of sermons preached during Holy Week by Father Bede Jarrett, O.P., at the Church of Our Lady of Lourdes, New York City. His discourse for Holy Thursday is a simple, clear and scholarly meditation on the Blessed Sacrament. For Good Friday, we have seven discourses on the Last Words of Christ from the Cross, together with a sermon on the Passion of Our Lady. The booklet is concluded with an Easter sermon treating Easter as the feast of Hope and Courage. This series of sermons affords anyone wishing to spend Holy Week profitably with an abundant supply of food for meditation. (Sheed & Ward, New York, \$0.90.)

Simplicity of thought and language characterizes the twenty-one essays that make up **The Living Source**. The book is short, and each topic takes up about three pages. The subjects range from such diverse things as *Noses to Farewell To Alleluia*, but all have a pertinent application to the spiritual side of life. The author, Paul Bussard, has compressed some fine spiritual doctrine within the sixty-six pages of the book. (Sheed & Ward., New York, N.Y. \$0.75.)

Father Kilian J. Hennrich, O.M. Cap., presents in his book, **Reading and Meditation for Retreats and Spiritual Renewals**, a treasure of real value to lay retreatants. Its value lies in the fact that the volume, which is small enough to carry in one's pocket (77 pages) contains eleven brief conferences treating those points necessary to make a good retreat. A clear and brief definition of each topic considered, followed by a practical exposition and an abundance of correctly applied scripture texts which give the retreatant material for future meditation, make this book a real companion and aid in time of retreat. (St. Anthony Guild Press, Franciscan Monastery, Paterson, N. J., \$1.00.)

The growth of the Retreat Movement among the laity is one of the very hopeful signs of spiritual progress in our people. The movement labors under many handicaps, principal among which is a dearth of suitable literature for exercises of meditation. In **Rest Awhile**, a compilation by Sister St. Michael Cowan, of the Daughters of the Holy Ghost, an attempt has been made to alleviate this regrettable condition. The author has selected what she considers to be some of the best conferences on retreat subjects. The conferences are concise, aptly expressed, grouped in a systematic manner, and provocative of further meditation. (Benziger Brothers, New York, \$1.25.)

Fr. J. J. Burke, C.S.P., tells us that his object in **Pray For Us** is to bring together in a convenient and small volume prayers for all occasions and circumstances. Through this small book the compiler hopes to facilitate the fulfillment of the great commandment, "Thou shall love thy neighbor as thyself." This commandment is not fulfilled simply by giving physical material help. We must aid our neighbor in a spiritual way.

This book accomplishes its object in so far as it enables us to find easily a way to give heed to the cry of our fellow-men, "Pray for us." (P. J. Kennedy & Sons, New York, N. Y., \$1.00.)

In **Calvary And The Mass**, we have eight of Monsignor Sheen's latest radio sermons. Taking each of the principal parts of the Mass, he shows us in his inimitable style and expression the intimate union between the Sacrifice of the Cross and the Mass, emphasizing the oneness of the two Sacrifices. (P. J. Kennedy & Sons, New York, \$1.00.)

The well known author of spiritual works, Rev. F. X. Lasance, presents as his latest a compilation of thoughts gleaned from Sacred Scripture, the writings of the Saints, etc., arranged for daily reflection. **Self-Conquest** is intended primarily to foster a spirit of prayerful recollection among the faithful in general, by offering short practical meditations which may easily be fitted into the busiest day. The book, neatly bound in leather, would make a useful and serviceable gift. (Benziger Bros., New York, \$1.00.)

A Manual of Catholic Action, a translation by C. C. Martindale, S.J., of the first volume of Mgr. Civaridi's *Azione Cattolica*, is an orderly exposition of the principles on which Catholic Action is based. The work supplies a need felt by both clergy and laity for a handbook in which the place each occupies in the apostolate of Catholic Action is clearly defined. It is noteworthy that almost all the arguments advanced in this exposition are supported by quotations from or references to papal utterances. Since it is intended as a scientific manual and not as a literary work, the translator made no attempt to depart from the technical or scholastic texture of the author's style. (Sheed & Ward Inc., New York, \$2.00.)

The Gates of the Church adds another book to the large library written by C. C. Martindale, S.J. The author's purpose in this volume is to answer the question why some men find it so hard to enter these gates of the Church and why others who possess the Faith lose it. This two-fold question is answered in five sermons dealing with the Catholic mind, act, heart, society, and the Catholic spirit. His main reason is that those who do not become Catholics and those who fall away, act thus because they do not really know what the Catholic religion is. He suggests that we make Jesus Christ, and the knowledge, love and service of Him, the center of our religion, rather than Heaven and Hell. The author's style is interesting and his matter offers serious food for thought, but he attempts to cover too much territory in such a small book. (Sheed & Ward Inc., New York, \$1.00.)

Volume II of **A Call to Catholic Action** concludes the series of fifty-six conferences on Catholic Action which should guide Catholics in the Social—Economic crisis of today. It tells what Catholic Action is, its source and how it applies to the different phases of life. Among the authors of this volume are His Excellency, the Most Rev. Amleto G. Cicognani, D.D.; the Most Rev. Joseph Schrembs, D.D.; Msgr. Fulton J. Sheen, Ph. D., D.D., Ll. D., Litt. D.; John W. R. Maquire, C.S.V., A. M.; James J. Daly, S.J.; and Carl H. Rogers. The volume is a valuable handbook both for presenting the doctrine of Catholic Action and for suggestions to help in its spread. It shows the universality of the field of action and the importance of each part of the whole organism. (Joseph F. Wagner, New York, \$2.00.)

Mother St. Paul has prepared the fifth volume in her series of meditations, **Vita Christi**. Thirty meditations are included in the book. Twenty-nine are drawn from Our Divine Lord's words and actions during the journey from Peraea to Jerusalem which preceded His death. The

thirtieth is on Christ the King. The considerations themselves are not too long, yet they provide ample material for prayer. Indices to the preceding volumes in this same series and to other works of the authoress are appended. (Longmans, Green & Co., New York, N. Y., \$2.00.)

Of Fr. Petit, whose life is the subject of **The Happy Ascetic**, Archbishop Goodier says: ". . . While I talked he stood there smiling and still; when I had finished he came to the door, opened it, and smiled me out, making me feel quite unusually contented, with him, with myself, and with life generally." In a sense this imparting of contentment and peace was to be the work of his fifty-nine years in the priesthood. As Superior, Confessor, Retreat-Master, Spiritual Director, he had "considerable influence on the piety of Belgium. . . . Considerable, not for the range and depth of his thoughts, but for his smiling and winning gentleness of manner, with which he persuaded souls to the love of God." The book is the work of J. R. Maxwell, S.J., who has written with simplicity and ease. (Benziger Bros., New York, N. Y. \$1.75.)

In July, 1933, death brought an end to an extremely useful life. It was that of Mother St. Urban, of whose life and labors Fr. Thomas D. Williams writes in his **Life of Mother Saint Urban**. Yet had he confined himself merely to her work, the record would have been incomplete. Mother St. Urban was a religious, a Sister of Bon Secours, and whatever she did was motivated by the love of God. This is the important feature in the life of every religious, and it is this that is properly stressed in the volume. Fr. Williams marshals a host of incident and actual conversations to present an inspiring figure. (John Murphy Co., Baltimore, Md. \$2.00.)

A few years back, the announcement that airplanes would be used in mission work created no little interest among Catholic circles. **The Flying Missionary** is an account of their use in the mission fields of Southern Africa. Its author, Fr. Paul Schulte, O.M.I., is also a pilot, and like most airmen he can tell a good tale. In addition to a short history of the inception of the work, he recounts some of the incidents of his student flying days. The usefulness of air travel in the work of the missions is interestingly set forth. Lands and peoples, hitherto inaccessible, are now easily gotten at. In time of danger or stress missionaries may be reached quickly. The Pope's enthusiasm for this latest mission activity is easily understood after reading this book. Fr. Schulte has been fortunate in his translator, George Shuster. (Benziger Bros., New York. \$2.00.)

The 1935 Proceedings of the National Catechetical Congress of the Fraternity of Christian Doctrine deals principally with some of the weightier problems in the field of catechetical work. Extended treatment is given to Study Clubs, the Graded Catechism, Religious Instruction for Public School Students, and the Religious Vacation School. (St. Anthony Guild Press, Paterson, New Jersey. \$1.00 each.)

LITERATURE: We are inclined to be incredulous about the fact that the Devil did and still does hold tremendous sway over the hearts and souls of men. Yet diabolic possession is a stark reality. **The Coming of the Monster**, Fr. Owen F. Dudley's latest novel, is a study of the spread of the kingdom of darkness by irreligious movements. To interpret events of irreligion in this aspect is not sentimental, but one which is in accord with right reason. The authors combines his "Interims" with romance, and the result is a book that can be read with delight and profit. (Longmans, Green & Co., New York, N. Y., \$2.00.)

FOREIGN: Difficulty often besets the student beginning a course in Canon Law. The terminology of the Code is something new to him, and even the intention of the law-giver himself often escapes him. Much of

this seeming obscurity and vagueness has been dissipated by Fr. Christopher Berutti, O.P., in his **Institutiones Juris Canonici**. It is intended primarily for the beginner and is written for him. The author confines himself to a consideration of the *Normae Generales*. Beginning with some general notions on the nature, division, and sources of the Code, he proceeds to explain and clarify the eighty-six Canons of this first section. Simplicity characterizes the entire work. Students will find it of great value. (Marii E. Marietti, Torino, Italy. L. 12.)

Priests and students of Moral Theology will find in **Casus Conscientiae De Praecipuis Hujus Aetatis Peccandi Occasionibus** by the Rev. Francis Ter Harr, C.S.S.R., invaluable aid in solving the problems which confront them in the sacred tribunal. It contains, moreover, salutary advice to penitents who find themselves or place themselves in occasions of sin. Not too strict, not too lenient, the author bases his conclusions on the authority of St. Alphonsus and modern authors, favoring the liberty of the penitent whenever possible. (Marii E. Marietti, Torino, Italy. L. 10.)

A new edition of the **Propaedeutica Biblica** of Father R. P. J. Prado, C.S.S.R., has been issued. It is an excellent handbook for the study of Sacred Scriptures. In addition to the usual subjects included in such manuals, there are good geological and archeological illustrations. The pages on the history of Exegesis are especially valuable. For the student who wishes to make a further and deeper study of the Scriptures, a complete bibliography is appended. (Marii E. Marietti, Torino, Italy. L. 30.)

Philosophiae Christianae Institutiones (Volume III) completes the elementary course in Philosophy presented by Fr. Mariani. The first part deals with general and special Ethics. Although the tracts conform numerically with those in other manuals, their exposition bears a rugged individuality. Fr. Mariani has written for beginners. Simplicity of expression, soundness of doctrine and completeness in analysis give unqualified recommendation to his work. The second part, devoted to History of Philosophy, is characterized by accuracy and remarkable brevity. Complete indices to the three volumes in their series comprise the third part of this final volume. We note one disagreeable feature: the profuse interpersions of italics makes reading difficult. (Marii E. Marietti, Torino, Italy. L. 28.)

In Sept Ans D'Examen Particulier A La Suite De Saint Thomas D'Aquin, Rev. Emile Dussault, D.D., recognizing the importance of the particular examen, proposes an outline to be followed over a period of seven years. Though intended primarily for the direction of the Ursuline Sisters, it will be found helpful to religious and to all men and women who aspire to spiritual perfection. The method proposed is based on the teachings of the Angelic Doctor. Since spiritual perfection consists in the perfect practice of the four Cardinal and the three Theological Virtues, crowned by the seven Gifts of the Holy Ghost, Father Dussault's plan requires a year's consideration of each virtue. Because in the work of perfection we should follow the method of all true pedagogy which consists in proceeding from the less to the more difficult, the outline begins with Temperance and ends with Charity. Each tract begins with an explanation and general notions of the particular virtue. A special practical consideration and thought for each month of the year follows. (L. Lethielleux, Paris. 12 fr.)

In **Le Coeur admirable de la Très Sacrée Mère de Dieu**, St. Jean Eudes assembled in logical order all that the Fathers and Doctors of the Church have written on the subject of the Heart of Mary. Anyone who reads these pages attentively will be convinced of the ardent love for Mary that consumed the heart of the saintly author. For him, the Heart of

Mary represented incomparable perfections. Meditation upon these furnished him with abundant nourishment both for his own personal devotion and for the guidance of souls. So simple is his treatment that in spite of the richness of doctrine, the work is one which will be read with profit by all. (P. Lethielleux, Paris. 25 frs.)

PAMPHLETS: The P. J. Kenedy Co., 12 Barclay St., New York, has issued **The Catholic Missal Supplement for 1936**. Although intended for use with *The Catholic Missal* printed by the same company, it may be used as an accurate liturgical guide for any missal (\$0.10). The Queen's Work, 3742 West Pine Blvd., St. Louis, Mo., offers **What Catholicity and Communism Have in Common**, an examination of the points wherein the Church and Communism agree and disagree; and **Your Partner in Marriage**, a consideration of marriage as a career and the difficulties connected with it. Both are the work of Daniel A. Lord, S.J., and cost ten cents each. From Our Sunday Visitor Press, Huntington, Indiana, come **Modern Indifferentism and Theological Science** (by M. O'Connor), a strong criticism of the modern attitude towards religious belief and the attitude which should characterize the Catholic; **Learn Of Me** by Josephine Van Dyke Brownson, which contains some simple questions on Christian Doctrine, together with a few prayers; **The Bible**, by J. A. Vaughan, S.J., and Most Rev. J. F. Noll, a short but complete account of its composition, interpretation, and other facts connected with its place in Catholic worship; **Are Mercy-Killings Justifiable?** by F. A. Arnold, C.R., a severe arraignment of this essentially pagan practice. The price of each is ten cents. St. Anthony Guild Press, 389 Main St., Paterson, N. J., presents **The Lord's Prayer On The Cross** by Rt. Rev. Fulton J. Sheen (\$0.10 each), a series of meditations on the Our Father; and **The New Testament (The History of the Apostolic Church, Syllabus II—Part II)**, containing eighteen lessons upon the Acts of the Apostles, which will be of much use in parish study clubs and class rooms of High School students (\$0.25 each).

BOOKS RECEIVED: From Samuel French, Inc., New York: **Want**, by Gladys Foster (\$0.35). **The Last Laugh**, by Marjorie Fort (\$0.35). **The Prince of Peace**, by E. Lawrence Gibson (\$0.35). **Q.E.D.**, by Theodore A. Liebler (\$0.30). **The Man Who Could Not Smile**, by Lloyd Graham (\$0.25). **Lend Me Your Baby**, by Grace Hayward (\$0.75). **Blind Alley**, by Jane Norwick (\$0.75). **Russet Mantle and The Cherokee Night**, by Lynn Riggs (\$2.00). **The Adventures Of Tom Sawyer**, by Wilbur Braun (\$0.50). **Hymn To The Rising Sun**, by Paul Green (\$0.35). **Call It A Day**, by Dradie Smith (\$1.50). **On Stage**, by Benjamin M. Kaye (\$0.75). **Ten Snappy Revue Sketches**, by Marjorie Rice Levis (\$0.50). **Life Begins At Sixteen**, by Hilda Manning (\$0.50). **Easily Staged Plays For Boys**, by S. Sylvan Simon (\$1.50). **Square The Circle**, by Valentine Kataer (\$0.75). **Debutante Plays**, by Olive Price (1.50).