



**Effective Preaching.** By Thomas V. Liske, S.T.D. New York, Macmillan Company, 1951, pp. 293. \$3.50.

Were the title of this book any other than *Effective Preaching* one might be inclined to pass it by as unsuitable reading. But it was a well-chosen title with a very pronounced emphasis on the word "effective." This book will prove to be most helpful, useful, and enlightening to all those who engage in public speaking, but especially to the young priest. For if the priest is to fulfill his office as the official teacher and dispenser of Divine Truth, his preaching must be convincing and effective. In a very clear and orderly fashion the author provides many practical suggestions to the priest which will enable him to acquire this effectiveness in preaching.

The one recurring thought which the author, Fr. Liske, wishes to impress upon the mind of the preacher is that communication of thought and ideas is the essential element of effective preaching. To facilitate this communication, the securing of the attention of the audience is most important. The preacher must establish initial contact and be able to sustain this contact throughout this sermon. The first part of the book, comprising seven chapters, offers numerous suggestions and techniques for this purpose.

The author then proceeds to devote two chapters to the instrument of speech, namely the voice. A well-modulated voice, being at the same time pleasant and distinct, is a great asset to the priest in preaching, and much of the success and effectiveness of a sermon depends on the preacher's voice.

The remaining chapters of the book concern the preacher's preparation and the sermon itself. Preparation has a unique value in preaching effectively, because preparation "is at least a practical guarantee of success in speaking."

The author, Fr. Liske, is well-qualified to have written this book, for he is professor of speech at Quigley Seminary in Chicago. His ideas are presented in a fine literary style, and here and there we encounter a touch of humor. Fr. Liske has done a great service in presenting his views on preaching, a service which will be most profitable to preachers desirous of improving their sermons. G.H.K.