

Nevertheless, the book has much merit. The first chapter, the chapters on Charity and the Eucharist (which might have been combined into one chapter) and the Epilogue reveal the thought of a dedicated and experienced priest and spiritual director. The first chapter presents an excellent but syncopated exposition of Image Theology. The chapter on Asceticism is a convincing presentation of the real values of penance in purifying the soul for a deeper indwelling of Christ and the Spirit. Love is portrayed as the response of a redeemed person to the Christ on whom he is wholly dependent. The Epilogue also reminds the reader of the needs of the contemporary world and the importance of a Christ-centered life in fulfilling these needs.

MANNES GUILFOY, O. P.

Dover, Massachusetts

in brief...

THE DEATH OF GOD DEBATE. Edited by J. L. Ice and J. J. Carey. Westminster Press, 1967. 267 pp. \$2.65.

Approximately two years ago, the "Death of God" radical theology exploded into American consciousness in the major news journals of the United States. The editors have assembled various articles which have either contributed to the "rattling of stain glass windows" or are a response to such. In the four-part discussion the radicals answer the analyses and responses of the theological community and the public at large. The most important feature brought out in this discussion between men such as Altizer, Hamilton, Vahanian, Daniel Callahan, Rabbi Hertzberg, and others, is that radical theology is for many a viable alternative to a stifled Christian theology and is in part at least a valid reflection of a

number of Christians on their contemporary situation.

1968 NATIONAL CATHOLIC ALMANAC. Edited by Felician A. Foy, O.F.M. St. Anthony's Guild, Doubleday, 1968. 696 pp. \$3.95.

There is practically no area of Catholic interest that is not included in the *Catholic Almanac* for 1968. In addition to the vast amount of statistical information which it makes available, the *Almanac* contains a number of articles dealing with the most lively current topics: the Synod of Bishops, trends in moral theology, the crisis in vocations, priestly celibacy, etc. Undertaken by Fr. Foy and the Franciscan seminarians of Washington's Holy Name College, the compilation is an indispensable reference source.

THE MEANING OF THE DEATH OF GOD.

Edited with an introduction by Bernard Murchland, Vintage Book, 1967. 265 pp. \$1.95.

By Catholic, Protestant, and Jewish scholars, this is a critical study on the meaning of the "Death of God," a movement which the editor rightly describes as merely one chapter in a whole history of alienation. Although this volume does not contain the responses of the radical theologians themselves, and duplicates some of the articles found in *The Death of God Debate*, it is by far a more revealing study. Represented are authors such as Novak, Adolfs, Montgomery, J. B. Cobb Jr., Robert McAfee Brown, Borowitz, and L. Shiner. Well worth the modest price.

THE DEATH OF GOD MOVEMENT.

Charles N. Bent, S. J. Paulist Press, 1967. 213 pp. \$4.95, cloth. \$2.95, paper.

This is an excellent study, readable, yet comparable to Ogletree's *The Death of God Controversy*. By an analysis of the philosophical underpinnings and the theological a priori's of the movement, Fr. Bent is able to uncover weaknesses and indicate strengths of the radical "turn" of American Protestant thought. Vahanian is also included in the volume, although not a "Death of God" theologian; the reason is that his own cultural analysis of the phenomenon of the absence of God has now become a "traditional" evaluation. A useful introduction to the thinking of the radical theologians, who often enough seem unintelligible to the trained and untrained alike.

TEILHARD DE CHARDIN'S THEOLOGY OF THE CHRISTIAN IN THE WORLD.

R. L. Faricy, S. J. Sheed and Ward, 1967. 235 pp. \$6.00.

Fr. Faricy is a teacher in the religious education department at Catholic University, and this first book is the result of his concern to provide a theological

base for a commitment to the world. Since this was Teilhard's own life-principle, it is only natural to summon the French Jesuit's thinking on the matter. Certainly this book could not measure up to the depth and penetration of a De Lubac or a Smulders, but it is a clear presentation of the problem of Teilhard's love of the world and God, his resolution in Christ, and the meaning of the universe, the eucharist, and Christian involvement which follow from such a resolution. Fr. Faricy's book compares favorably with one by F. Bravo (*Christ in the Thought of Teilhard de Chardin*, Notre Dame Press, 1967) with a similar purpose. The American Jesuit has taken greater pains to "translate" Teilhard's terminology for his readers. However neither author is critical enough on the fundamental theological point which validates the Teilhardian thesis, namely that of the "cosmic Christ." Without a deeper justification for assertions made on this point, the reader is left suspended without a total "commitment" to the basic plan.

THE DAY HOURS OF THE ROMAN BREVIARY.

Edited by Lancelot C. Sheppard. Desclee, 1967. 864 pp. \$7.95.

An English translation of the traditional hours of the Divine Office from Prime through Compline, this book contains in a single volume of manageable size and readable format the entire temporal and sanctoral cycles. The Psalter chosen is from Grail, translated from the French of the Jerusalem Bible and familiar to many from the musical settings of Joseph Gelineau. This translation was made with recitation of the Office in common specifically in mind. The use of the Revised Standard Version of the Scriptures for the lessons is also quite acceptable. Each feast and liturgical season is introduced with a short commentary. The only fault with this breviary is that shared with the other breviaries, too—a very poor collection of hymn translations. It is to be hoped that future editions will attempt

to remedy this. Nevertheless any community which is considering the purchase of an office book should give careful consideration to this volume.

CANTOR AT THE CROSSROADS. Edited by Johannes Reidel. Concordia, 1967. 238 pp. \$6.75.

A collection of essays on various aspects of church music, published to honor Walter Buszin, the prominent Lutheran scholar and church musician. The collection is divided into two sections, one of historical essays and the other of essays dealing with contemporary problems in church music. The latter is especially valuable in giving insights into how one church is facing many of the problems in church music which are common to every Christian assembly today. The Roman Catholic reader should find especially interesting the article, "The Struggle for Better Hymnody" by Armin Haeussler, which deals with the problem of finding hymns which speak to the Christian of today, and yet do not descend to the banal as do many so-called contemporary hymns.

HUGO DISTLER AND HIS CHURCH MUSIC. Larry Palmer, Concordia, 1967. 187 pp. \$5.75.

This first biography of Hugo Distler (1908-42) introduces to the non-German world a leading contemporary composer of liturgical music. An extensive output for such a short life, Distler's work represents some of the finest music to emerge from the renewal of the German Evangelical Churches, and has had considerable influence on the development of church music in Germany and in this country. Besides analysis of Distler's major compositions with numerous examples from his scores, Dr. Palmer includes lists of his published works and of editions of his music available from Concordia (St. Louis, Missouri). A graduate of the Eastman School of Music, Dr. Palmer is professor of music at the Norfolk

Division of Virginia State College and musical director of Trinity Lutheran Church, Norfolk.

THE PEACH STONE: Stories from Four Decades. Paul Horgan. Farrar, Straus, and Giroux, 1967. 470 pp. \$5.95.

Real thematic unity is rare in a collection of short stories, even when they are the work of one author. Paul Horgan has grouped a number of stories, dating from different periods in his life, into *The Peach Stone* and achieved a finely balanced unity. Distributed into four parts, the stories move through childhood and youth to adulthood and age,—like life itself, in a questing for maturity. Significantly entitled, the story "The Peach Stone" seems to hold the key to the whole. Its main character is returning to her childhood home. She recalls once having had an imaginary precious peach stone and this recollection brings back her childhood days: she relives her past life and her present life comes into better focus as a result.

AMERICAN PARTICIPATION IN THE SECOND VATICAN COUNCIL. Edited by Vincent A. Yzermans. Sheed and Ward, 1967. 684 pp. \$16.50.

Focusing on one of the conciliar decrees or constitutions, each of the book's sixteen chapters is three-sectioned: an historical introduction by Msgr. Yzermans; all of the interventions made by American bishops in the course of the debate; a commentary by some major American expert. Among the commentators are Godfrey Diekmann, Barnabas Ahern and John Courtney Murray. From Cardinal Krol's Foreword: "The author calls this an 'interim report' because he does not presume to give the full dimensions, nor . . . a complete evaluation of the impact of the contributions made by the bishops of the United States. He simply reports all that is presently available and certain. A final and complete report and evalu-

ation must await the date of free access to the Council archives . . . This volume is a singular contribution to post-conciliar literature."

PEACE AMONG CHRISTIANS. Augustin Cardinal Bea and Willem A. Visser't Hooft. Association Press, Herder and Herder, 1967. 236 pp. \$4.95.

Awarded the Peace Prize of the German Publishers Association in 1966, this collection provides an inside view of contemporary ecumenical dialogue from two of its eminent leaders: Cardinal Bea, President of the Vatican Secretariat for Promoting Christian Unity, Willem Visser't Hooft, former General Secretary of the World Council of Churches. The addresses and writings included center around their conciliar and post-conciliar activity—so crucial in bringing Catholics and Protestants together in greater understanding and unified effort. Informative introductions by Bishop Willebrands and Eugene Carson Blake describe the eventful background out of which this collection emerged.

FREEDOM OR TOLERANCE. Enda McDonagh. Magi Books, 1967. 155 pp. \$3.95.

In the early sixties Enda McDonagh made a significant contribution to the discussion of religious liberty with his doctoral thesis, *Church and State in the Constitution of Ireland*. The present book concentrates on the Vatican Council *Declaration on Religious Liberty*. A short but knowledgeable introduction precedes the text of the *Declaration*. Chapters of commentary and a chapter dealing with the document's conciliar history follow. The final chapters "provide some evidence of pre-conciliar debate. They also serve to spell out in particular detail some of the background and implications of the doctrine of religious freedom which was promulgated by Vatican II." Fr. McDon-

agh is professor of moral theology at St. Patrick's College, Maynooth, Ireland.

THE CHANGING VATICAN. By Alberto Cavallari. Doubleday, 1967. 215 pp. \$4.95.

A distinguished Italian journalist, Alberto Cavallari is probably best known in this country for his unprecedented interview with Paul VI. This interview and many others with highly placed churchmen in the Vatican administration form the basis of this fast-moving, factual book. Attempting no profound evaluation, Cavallari brings his reader with him for a close look at the inner workings of the Vatican. Especially interesting on the eve of the execution of Pope Paul's directives reorganizing the Curia.

TWENTIETH CENTURY SPIRITUAL LETTERS. James B. Coburn. Westminster Press, 1967. 170 pp. \$3.95.

Currently Dean of the Episcopal Theological School, Cambridge, Mass., Dr. Coburn brings to these meditations his wide experience as a teacher, Navy and college chaplain, and church rector. The book's first section includes letters written by the author between 1935 and 1966; the second, some reflections on contemporary spirituality. The style is always warm and engaging. A refreshingly straightforward book. Dr. Coburn is the author of the well-known *Prayer and Personal Religion*.

THE PROBLEM OF LONELINESS. By J. B. Lotz, S. J. Alba House, 1967. 149 pp. \$3.95.

Anyone with an affinity for Martin Heidegger, Rainer-Maria Rilke and Gertrude Von LeFort will certainly find Fr. Lotz' book a rewarding adventure in phenomenology. The author, a Gregorianum Jesuit and expert on existentialism, has undertaken to analyze one of the much-discussed problems of our times, loneliness, by considering isolation which effects estrangement, and solitude

which is propadeutic to communion. It is a speculative work (the cover and title might mislead the unsuspecting buyer into thinking he is purchasing a companion to Louis Evelyn's latest book) woven with threads of existentialism, poetry and German phenomenology.

TEACH US HOW TO PRAY. Louis Evelyn. Newman Press, 1967. 90 pp. \$2.95.

Louis Evelyn, whose name is on everyone's lips these days has given us a book on one of the essential elements of the Christian life, personal prayer. Evelyn begins by explaining that we don't know how to pray any more; we pray so little and so poorly. His little volume is written in strong words which recommend to the modern Christian long periods of prayer in which we can "die and be born again." Each chapter deals with a particular aspect of the life of prayer, always returning to the principle that to pray is to let God into our life so that we can let our neighbor in too.

THE WORD OF GOD. Louis Evelyn. Herder & Herder, 1967. 295 pp. \$6.50.

In this new book of homilies Louis Evelyn has brought the liturgical celebrations of the year and the concrete Christian life together. Sundays, as well as some of the major feasts, are treated with a keen Biblical understanding and enormous common sense. The reader will probably recognize much of the "doctrine" in the various homilies if he is at all familiar with Evelyn's other works. *The Word of God* will bring the Gospel meaning of Christianity before the mind of every reader.

FROM SCRIPTURE TO PRAYER. Francois Amiot. 2 Vol. Alba House, 1967. 754 pp. \$12.95.

This two-volume work will not only bring many readers into contact with the word of God in the Scriptures, but will also draw them into the heart of the liturgical celebrations of the Church through a careful, day-to-day explanation

texts. For those periods of the year when the liturgy has no current themes, Fr. Amiot has ingeniously emphasized the prominent themes of St. Paul and the Gospels. One of the few books to make that necessary connection between the painstaking work of the exegete and the daily life of the Bible-reading Christian.

MYSTICS AND ZEN MASTERS. By Thomas Merton. Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 197. 303 pp. \$5.50.

In the sixteen essays which comprise this book Thomas Merton has treated everything from classic Chinese thought to Protestant monasticism. Perhaps most impressive is his obvious involvement in his subject. What Merton attempts here is an analysis of the roots of the contemplative-monastic life in both the eastern and western traditions. This serves to develop new insights into the present survival and renewal of the monastic regime. Merton carefully explains the richness of Zen spirituality and manages in a short time to orient his reader to the "other-worldly" Zen experience. The book is an excellent ecumenical dialogue.

LIVING PRAYER. Archbishop Anthony Bloom. Templegate, 1968. 125 pp. \$4.50.

In an avowed ecumenical age, a book on prayer by a Metropolitan of the Orthodox Church with a preface by the Roman Bishop of Pittsburgh is of significant interest. Archbishop Anthony Bloom, a familiar figure to British radio and television, exposes the principles of Christian prayer in a fresh and vibrant style. His background as medical doctor and his years of service in the French Army make it possible for him to present the eastern Orthodox tradition in a very practical way. Bishop Wright says in his preface: "Archbishop Bloom's book, by presenting with pastoral simplicity and priestly concern for the place of prayer in the daily concerns of modern Christians, does a great service to us all."