

a special way to the Mother of God. The last hundred years or so have seen an intensification of that honour and love towards Mary which has always been a normal feature of Christianity. Naturally this has led to a desire to know more about the Blessed Virgin. It is, then, a pity that so large a number of books written to meet that demand are either too subjective or theologically too abstruse, the reader being speedily overwhelmed by all those titles ending in '-trix' which are so offensive to English ears no matter how pious and marian.

Fr Palmer's book, on the contrary, is thoroughly objective in approach, and concerned with fundamentals. His aim is to allow us to think with the Church, to have *her* mind on Mary. His texts, in consequence, are drawn largely from the Fathers, the Councils, and the Popes. Even medieval doctors such as Saints Bernard and Thomas, whose authority as sources is less than that of the Fathers, are only sparingly represented.

A special word of praise must be added for the intelligent and sober theological notes whereby the texts are knit together and the whole rhythm of dogmatic development underlined. Altogether this book is to be highly recommended to all those who seek a clearer understanding in faith of all the great things that God has done to Mary.

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THE DOMINION OF CHRIST. By L. S. Thornton. (Dacre Press; 25s.)

This is the second volume of a considerable work on the 'Form of the Servant'. In it the author deals with fundamental themes of biblical theology as illustrating the restoration to 'wholeness' of all things in Christ. Dr Thornton's method draws upon anthropological data and critical scholarship, but is itself concerned to interpret Scripture, thus illumined, by Scripture. Much of what he writes is of the greatest interest. Many problems, for instance, regarding the significance of the doctrine of the 'Imago Dei' and the figure of the serpent-dragon are elucidated and the unity of the great biblical themes of the 'child', 'light' and 'rebirth' are demonstrated and clarified. Perhaps the best section is that on the divine victory.

One of the great interests of the work is the way in which its method of interpretation brings out and comments upon the patristic and traditional view of the Scriptures and it thus provides a very useful handbook for the theologian. It must be said, however, that the book is difficult to read and that much of the difficulty is due to the author's manner of presentation.

I.H.