

of cynical comment on the part of moralists; and the Judaic trend towards a domestic communism simultaneous with extra-domestic capitalism is a commonplace of history. Deuteronomy has been all things to all men in the matter. Was the offending verse twenty a temporary concession by the Lord to placate Hebrew greed (even polygamy has been dragged in for an analogue) or, does it rest still on the Lord's dominion over all men's goods, an easier explanation for the Chosen People than for the financiers of today? Professor Nelson's rendering of the Deuteronomic Odyssey is scholarly and comprehensive and will be of use to the student of history and bibliography. But though the author refuses to end his study on a note of despair and pleads, (in five words) for the Brotherhood of Man, the reader is disappointed who sought the moral verdict of History: and we shall do better with the *Vix Pervenit* of Benedict XIV. For the latter was followed (if we except the liberalism of Zech and the Jesuit canonists of Ingolstadt) by a body of sound, coherent exegetics. The author of *The Idea of Usury* owes an evident debt to Sir Henry Maine, acknowledged in a footnote and a bibliography of six-hundred-odd names.

J. F. T. PRINCE.

FATHER FLANAGAN OF BOYS TOWN. By Fulton Oursler and Will Oursler. (The World's Work; 12s. 6d.)

'I have never known a really bad boy, only bad parents, bad environments and bad examples. It's wrong even to call it juvenile delinquency. Why not call it what it generally is—the delinquency of a callous and indifferent society.' Such was the considered judgment of Father Flanagan, whose Boys Town in Omaha remains the monument to his faith in the infinitely redemptive work of Christian charity.

Father Flanagan began with no hypothetical theories about juvenile crime. He saw a need—that of the thousands of American boys deprived of normal home life, the victims of a society too often without mercy or without the will to restore its misfits to responsibility—and that need he met, without making any distinction of colour, class or creed. The fascinating story of his success, from the early days when as a curate he began a 'hotel' for tramps, to the vast organisation, with its schools, workshops and playing-fields, which he left securely established when he died in Berlin in 1948, is told in characteristically American fashion by the Messrs Oursler. For in many ways it was a typically American achievement, and other nations, more inhibited, may learn from this record of trust in the radical meaning of love as applied to unfortunate boys whose delinquencies are too often the result of a lack of love.

His epitaph reads simply: 'Lover of Christ and Man', and it is a sufficient explanation of his work, which transformed the lives of thousands of boys and, by its example, profoundly influenced the social conscience of America.

I.E.

SYNOPSIS TOTIUS SUMMAE THEOLOGICAE S. THOMAS. Edited by Gerard M. Paris, O.P. (Naples, d'Auria: 3 vols; 30s.)

This Latin synopsis contains the essential parts of each article of the Summa. The title of the article is given, and then the answer affirmative or negative as the case may be to the question put, together with the essential reasons for that answer. The requisite distinctions are embodied in the answer itself. Other points of interest culled from the answers to the objections are given in notanda at the end of the article. This method of summarising the *Summa* enables the editor to compress into one volume of 621 pages in a small convenient format the *Prima pars* and the *Prima secundae*. Two other volumes are to come to complete the work. How far such a book can serve those unacquainted with scholastic terminology and philosophical doctrine is open to question, but to those who know something of the *Summa*, it should serve as a handy and useful vade-mecum.

A.F.

THE ABBREVIATED CATECHISM WITH EXPLANATIONS. By F. H. Drinkwater. (Burns Oates; 2s. 6d.)

Another admirable book of catechetical instruction by Father Drinkwater. This is not a teacher's book but is for older children themselves; especially those, and there must be a greatly increasing number of them, in secondary-modern schools.

The scheme followed is the shortened Catechism used in the diocese of Birmingham. There is a section on liturgy and a good outline of Church history. It is attractively illustrated.

As to the explanatory matter; needless to say that it is excellent and exactly adapted to its purpose.

H. St J.

RED. LETTER DAYS. By Joseph Christie and William Lawson, S.J. (Burns Oates; 3s. 6d.)

Anybody who has had the luck to hear the Gorman-Christie dialogues at a weekend leadership course will want to read this book. In it Fr William Lawson, S.J. has taken Fr Gorman's place but the excitement is just as great: How is he going to answer that one? So although you meant to go and do something else you are forced to