

The human face, to MAX PICARD, is the image of God, bearing the marks of his likeness. In the human face, too, he sees reflected the countenance of the Son of man. The sacrament of marriage is a well-spring of hope since Christ himself has sanctified it by deigning to be born in 'the house of marriage'. Our chaotic world is a flight from God, man has become discontinuous, disjointed, and only through Christ can continuity be restored. The 'Our Father', some of Max Scheler's lectures, a glimpse of the vivifying power of the Cross, the life of St Teresa and her own unquenchable thirst for truth, all played their part in drawing EDITH STEIN to Christ. Having found him, she was content only when she had surrendered herself to him completely in the religious state. 'Not human activity will help us but the Passion of Christ. To partake in it is my desire.' (p. 347.) Truth, the meaning of being, the soul's union with God by the Cross, form the subject of her greatest works, in which the thought of St Thomas, St Teresa and St John of the Cross are clothed with a living idiom and interpreted according to the modern philosophical temper. Edith was dragged from her Carmelite cell and gassed in 1942.

Of old, God ordained a candlestick with seven lamps to be placed in the south side of the tabernacle to give light in the house of God. May he not have designed this new menorah of seven luminous minds to enlighten their Jewish brethren and to reveal to them the treasures of the new Tabernacle of God with men?

P.

VOCATION. (Blackfriars Publications; 10s. 6d.)

This volume has no author since it is a collection of papers read at a meeting of priests whose object was to discuss the subject of vocation. The papers have been translated very well indeed by Walter Mitchell. The publication of these papers, the foreword says, hopes to benefit priests, superiors and novice-masters. Hope is too humble a word. The publication of these papers for the English reader is a stroke of genius. They should be given to every person who has to deal with vocations. Every page is worth its weight in gold in spite of the fact that each page is priced at only a humble penny (very nearly). It is impossible to single out passages for special commendation or the review would be as long as the book itself. Let every superior and novice-master or mistress read these pages carefully and there will be fewer square pegs in round holes. One might almost say to all concerned in this publication, 'Never was so much owed by so many to so few'.

D.J.S.