

Book Reviews

to the glory of God in the salvation of souls. And his was a stupendous triumph, and yet a triumph of failure and disappointment. He had made himself all things to all men, and he died abandoned, almost alone, on the threshold of what might have been his greatest triumph. Let the book speak for itself; once taken up, it will not lightly be set down. Such 'lives' of saints are all too few.

J.K.

ONE HUNDRED READINGS FOR THE SICK. By Fr. Robert Eaton. (Burns, Oates & Washbourne; 3/6.)

'In sickness,' wrote Jeremy Taylor, 'the soul begins to dress for immortality. It is that agony in which men are tried for a crown': an agony, therefore, which is an opportunity for the practice of humility, resignation to God's will, and especially patience. In his 'Hundred Readings' Fr. Eaton has provided plenty of excellent help and instruction. However, *facile omnes, cum valemus, recta consilia, aegrotis damus*.

G.T.

UNDER HIS SHADOW. Devotional Studies in the Sacred Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ. By the Reverend Francis Shea, C.P. (The Sign Press, Monastery Place, Union City, New Jersey, U.S.A.; \$1.60.)

To-day, when to most minds penance is an obsolete barbarism and suffering is regarded in practice if not in theory as a greater evil than sin, there is special need for meditation on the Passion, and for clear, forcible explanations of the Church's doctrine on suffering. These Father Shea has excellently supplied in these twenty-six studies, reprinted at the request of many readers of *The Sign* (the monthly magazine edited by the American Passionists) in which they first appeared.

Those who use them as meditations will do well to read the wise definition on p. 166: 'Watching Jesus is a holy and fruitful occupation.' And yet it will surprise many to know that it is nothing else but *Meditation*. Saints have urged the practice of meditation, have pointed out its advantages, have outlined the manner of making it. Many have been moved by their arguments, have been desirous of reaping its fruits, but have been repelled or discouraged by the unfamiliar, psychological terms employed to explain the exercise. Meditation on the Passion can be defined in its simplest terms as 'Watching Jesus' and asking oneself the question: 'As I am now, as I feel at present, what does that mean for me?' Thus,

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watching Jesus in His Agony will inspire one to utter an heroic 'Thy Will be done' in time of trial, and another to pray more perseveringly for necessary grace

The book is convincing because written with insight into the Gospel such as comes only from habitual, close contact with Our Lord and His Mother. The thoughts, well and simply expressed, often show a freshness of imagination which is yet happily restrained within the limits of probability. One of the best characteristics of the book is the remarkable aptness with which Scripture quotations are interwoven with the text.

Two slight criticisms. One would like more stress laid on the redemptive value of all suffering that is united with Our Lord's Passion. The Great War showed what response a country's need could evoke, not from a few, but from the majority. Why should not this latent capacity for self-sacrifice and even heroism be awakened by the greater need of humanity whose souls may be saved by those who suffer in and with Christ? And it is a pity a better translation was not used in the quotation from Eugénie de Guérin, pp. 80-81.

The book is well bound, the paper good and the type excellent.

M.B.

THE IMMORTAL ENCYCLICAL. By J. B. McLaughlin, O.S.B.
(Burns, Oates & Washbourne; 2/-.)

Fr. McLaughlin's pamphlet will have done good if its reverent enthusiasm for the *Rerum Novarum* proves contagious. The present plight of the Manchester School of Economics—and indeed of every other purely humanistic school—should give Fr. McLaughlin's enthusiasm a chance of catching.

We are wondering why Fr. McLaughlin has seemed to imply that Henry George's Single Tax doctrine is condemned by the *Rerum Novarum*. It should be known that when Dr. McGlynn, the priest-advocate of Henry George's theory, presented a statement to the Apostolic delegate, Monsignor (afterwards Cardinal) Satolli he received the following official judgment:

'Dr. McGlynn had presented a brief statement of his opinion on moral-economic matters, and it was judged not contrary to the doctrine constantly taught by the Church and as recently confirmed by the Holy Father in the Encyclical *Rerum Novarum*—Mgr. Satolli, January 1st, 1893.'

V. McN.