

## NOTICES

LOGICA, by Josephine de Vries, s.J. (Herder; n.p.), is the first volume of a new series of scholastic textbooks and contains an introduction to philosophy and a course of logic. Far the best thing in the book is the analysis of formal disputation, which may recommend it to English readers possessed of sufficient Latin, now that disputations are reviving in popularity. For the rest, systematic propositional logic is untouched, syllogistic theory is confused by the retention of names devised for the so-called indirect first figure modes for the fourth figure, modal syllogisms are dismissed in five and a half lines (in the course of which the Theophrastan rule *Peiroem* is inculcated without mention of Aristotle's quite different views). Despite the bibliography, there is in general very little evidence of the last hundred years' work in logic.

THE CLIFF'S EDGE is a collection of 'the songs of a psychotic' (by Eithne Tabor; Sheed and Ward; 8s. 6d.), and it is a strange and often moving experience to share, if only from afar, the troubled world of a patient in a mental hospital. One supposes the poems to have considerable clinical interest, but even those who know nothing of abnormal psychology can marvel at the mood of

*Now behind bars  
Earth and heaven are mine.*

THE BETROTHED ('I Promessi Sposi'), by Alessandro Manzoni, translated by Archibald Colquhoun (Dent; 15s.), is the first English version of Manzoni's great novel made for more than a century, and it is accompanied by a critical and biographical study. The original (final version 1840) has exercised a continuous influence on Italian language and thought to the present day, and English readers now have an excellent and most readable unabridged version of a book full of deep reflection, humour and incident. It can today be found as roundly satisfying, and by some as provocative, as it has always been.

The plot of WORLD ENOUGH AND TIME, by Robert Penn Warren (Eyre and Spottiswoode; 15s.), was suggested by the trial of Jeroboam Beauchamp for the murder of Colonel Solomon P. Sharp in Kentucky, 1806, an event which gave rise to a number of ballads and novels. This historical background has been very thoroughly worked up, perhaps to the detriment of the interest of the characters. The comparatively minor figures of the revivalist preacher Corinthian McClardy and the schoolmaster Dr Burnham do far more than the main characters to 'cast a passion over the commonness of things'.