

familiar with the practice of mental prayer. In all there are thirty-eight meditations which give the impression of being rather diffuse. The author however suggests that only one point should be taken each day. To avoid repeating what is to be found in other books for seminarists, Fr Nash does not draw on the Rite of Ordination for his subject-matter, but turns primarily though not exclusively to the gospels. Those who use this book should find in it an aid both to the better understanding of their obligations as students for the priesthood and to progress in the spiritual life.

N. J. KELLY

NOTICES

In *MEN AGAINST HUMANITY* (Harvill; 18s.) M. Gabriel Marcel approaches the problem of human freedom today together with cognate problems from his own metaphysical standpoint, both profound and difficult. He explicitly excludes the religious approach to these problems (p. 88), because he insists that the philosopher must make his own special contribution; and there is no doubt about it that those who can must follow him into these realms to discover the nature of man and the nature of the contemporary attack upon him and in particular upon his spirit.

WIFE, MOTHER AND MYSTIC (Sands; 10s. 6d.) is the story of Bl. Anna-Maria Taigi, told by Père Bessières, S.J., and translated by Fr Stephen Rigby. She was married at twenty in 1790 and reared seven pleasing children, some of whom lived to make depositions at the beatification process of their mother. And her husband too was there to say: 'A year after our marriage . . . she gave up all the jewellery she used to wear and took to wearing the plainest possible clothes. She asked my permission for this and I gave it her with all my heart.' With such a promising family background she developed into a saint who spoke with our Lord and was constantly beset by devils. She was indeed a 'mystic' of the most extraordinary type, and her life was of special significance for the critical period in which she lived. She had a constant vision, a sun in which she followed the life of Napoleon and the evils of the times. The book, though rather jumbled in its plan, is of considerable interest, especially for those who seek holiness in married life. Readers should not be discouraged by the jacket, which gives the impression of 'Another Nineteenth-Century French Nun Beata'!

Desclée De Brouwer have published a French translation of Thomas Merton's *Waters of Silence* under the title *Aux sources du silence* which is pleasantly produced and illustrated with eight photographs of life at Gethsemani.