

Chavardès. In her turn, Dr Decreus has undertaken to introduce and explain him. Originally influenced by Claudel, Péguy, Patrice de la Tour du Pin and Paul Valéry, Renard has gradually achieved independence and his poetry cannot be confused with anyone else's, even though the mark of the first two of these poets is still recognizable in much of what he writes. It is his passionate Christian inspiration that gives his work its flavour. Mme Decreus finds in it the influence of Père Teilhard de Chardin. She quotes from his poetry, but not as widely as one might wish, and one would give for actual quotation many pages of rather turgid presentation and explanation in which sense is drowned in sound. It is only fair to add, however, that in the course of her study she reproduces some dozen complete poems.

H.J.B.

NOTICES

The reprinting of Faber's *BETHLEHEM* and *THE FOOT OF THE CROSS* (each \$3.95, published by the Peter Reilly Co., Philadelphia) is a reminder of how thoroughly the Victorian Oratorians had assimilated the contemporary spirit of Italian Catholicism. Faber's works have long been popular in French and Italian translation, and it is only right (even though it be by way of Philadelphia) that he should be known again in English, for his spiritual writings are full of a burning zeal and a pictorial enthusiasm which have a proper place in the Catholic tradition.

ST THÉRÈSE AND HER MISSION, by Abbé André Combes (Gill, 16s.) is described as a study of 'the basic principles of Theresian spirituality'. The authority of Abbé Combes is unquestioned in this field, and his book is a measured commentary on the teaching of the saint whom St Pius X called 'the greatest of modern times'.

Patrick Ignatius O'Leary was for twenty-five years editor of the Literary Page of the Melbourne *Advocate*, and himself wrote most of the articles for it. *BARD IN BONDAGE* (Hawthorn Press, Melbourne; 19s. 6d. in Australia) is a selection from his 'literary remains' offered by his friends and admirers as a memorial to him as a man and as a literary critic. The fifty essays are all brief, as newspaper articles will be,

and are subject to the conditions of journalism. The authors particularly considered are mainly moderns or the adopted of the moderns; there is a group of essays upon Australian writing and writers; and the rest are literary 'essays' after Lamb and Robert Lynd. Throughout the book the writing is characterized by the vivacity, the fluency, and the prejudices of an Irish Catholic in exile.

NOTHING IS IMPOSSIBLE, by Mercedes Ballestro (The Harvill Press, 7s. 6d.), is a quaint little novel, delicate and witty, about Spanish children. The hero, the twelve-year-old Andrés, is a kind of precocious Don Camillo. His school activities make entertaining and even edifying reading.

EVERY EYE, by Isobel English (André Deutsch, 10s. 6d.), is a clever novel of the flash-back type. The heroine, in spite of a squint, later rectified in adult life, has a sharp eye for the ordinary details of ordinary people's lives, which she etches with deadly precision. The jacket design by Miss Ann Buckmaster is, suitably, an eye-catcher.

THE MYSTERY OF THE FINDING OF THE CROSS, by Henri Ghéon (Dacre Press, 10s. 6d.), is the complete play appearing in English for the first time. This fine translation by Mr Frank de Jonge includes the more widely-known, and already published, excerpt from it, *The Way of the Cross*. Dame Sybil Thorndike contributes a foreword and Dom Thomas Becquet, O.S.B., introduces the play with an account of its genesis and first production, which would be helpful to anyone intending to produce it.

AMOR AND PSYCHE (Routledge and Kegan Paul, 21s.), contains a translation of the familiar story from *The Golden Ass* of Apuleius. To this is added an hundred-page psychological commentary which plausibly, and often illuminatingly, interprets the story as a mythical account of the development and individuation of the feminine psyche. This is the work of Erich Neumann, author of the monumental *The Origins and History of Human Consciousness* and *The Great Mother*. This smaller and more lucid work should enhance his reputation as heir-apparent to C. G. Jung.

THE RELIGIOUS SITUATION, by Paul Tillich (Thames and Hudson, 12s. 6d.), is an apparently unrevised version of an *opusculum* which first appeared in German some thirty years ago. From the fastness of a Herr Professor's study it viewed—in the approved manner of its place and time—the personalities, 'tendencies' and 'isms' which interested the

'twenties as a sort of Wagnerian drama of mighty but misty generalizations. It is not, however, without interest and relevance in our own day, and it would not be by Professor Tillich if it did not contain some noteworthy insights. But it is hardly up-to-date, nor does it represent the author's more mature thought, subsequently fertilized by the realities of the American way of life. The translator, Dr Richard Niebuhr, is nevertheless too impressed with the book's overwhelming importance to have much consideration for the poor reader, and has evidently thought strict fidelity to its original *Professorendeutsch* more imperative than any attempt to write idiomatic English.

THE LIFE OF SAINT TERESA, in a new translation by J. M. Cohen, is the latest volume to appear in the Penguin Classics (3s. 6d.). It should win many new friends in this popular and readable form, and its robust yet sensitive charm should prove a revelation to those for whom 'mysticism' has seemed an arcane and forbidden world.

SUSSEX (The Penguin Guides, 5s.), is an admirable guide to a too-publicized county. Compiled by F. R. Banks, it deals with monuments and hotels, the Brighton Pavilion as well as Peacehaven. One might wish that greater use had been made of all that Hilaire Belloc said and did for this county, and the chapter on 'Sussex in History' might well have been supplemented by one on 'Sussex in Literature'. But it is a useful and lively guide, and even the obvious is made interesting.

THE ENGLISH PENAL SYSTEM, by Winifred A. Elkin (Pelican Books, 3s. 6d.), is a comprehensive and accurate account of what happens to offenders in England after they have been sentenced by the courts. While it properly criticizes some aspects of our prisons and Borstals, it is nonetheless temperate in judgment. The criticism of short sentences only confirms the growing conviction of the uselessness of this form of punishment. This is the best type of Pelican: informative, interesting, up-to-date, and it should be read by any citizen who takes his responsibilities seriously.

OTHER recent Penguin Books include: IS PEACE POSSIBLE? by Kathleen Lonsdale (2s. 6d.), a 'Special' in which a Quaker scientist coolly and reasonably argues that her personal pacifism is the only practical national policy; among the 'Classics', Lucan's PHARSALIA (2s. 6d.) in a beautifully crisp and workmanlike translation by the indefatigable Robert Graves, a labour this not of love but of a reluctantly admiring hatred as the Introduction amusingly points out; and the following reprints: IN AN AGE OF REVOLUTION, by the late Archbishop Garbett

(3s. 6d.), that scientific classic, *THE SEA AROUND US*, by Rachel Carson (3s. 6d.), and *TAKE THESE MEN*, by Cyril Joly (3s. 6d.), which tells the story of the North African campaign of 1940-43 as experienced by the men in the tanks of the British 7th Armoured Division.

Several Catholic publishers have recently started publishing paper-backs. First to appear in Messrs Burns and Oates's Universe Books (2s. 6d. each) was Michael Day's translation of *THE STORY OF A SOUL*, by St Thérèse of Lisieux, 'Edited', says the title-page, 'by Mother Agnes of Jesus'. In his preface Fr Day briefly but carefully and fairly considers the value of this edition as compared with the recently published unedited MSS of the Saint, whose translation into English by the late Mgr Knox is eagerly awaited. His conclusion is that while the latter helps 'to build up a more vivid and colourful picture of her life', the St Thérèse we find in the book which since her death has made her known throughout the world 'is, essentially, the St Thérèse of the original manuscripts'. Subsequent volumes in the same series are *THE LETTERS OF ST PAUL*, an extract from the Knox Bible, and Thomas Merton's *SEEDS OF CONTEMPLATION*. It was, however, Messrs Sheed and Ward who in their pre-war Unicorn Books had the honour of being the first English Catholic house to produce paper-backs. Their new series, Canterbury Books (each 3s. 6d.), differ slightly from the normal paper-back of today in having a slightly larger format, fewer pages and a better paper. They aim, however, at being 'short and pley'n', at pithiness rather than quantity; and this object would seem to be realized in the first six titles which are: *THE ROOTS OF THE REFORMATION*, by Karl Adam, *MARRIAGE AND THE FAMILY*, by F. J. Sheed, *CONFESSION*, by Archbishop Heenan, *THE BEGINNING OF THE ENGLISH REFORMATION*, by Hugh Ross Williamson, *THE DEVIL*, by Bernard Leeming and Walter Farrell, and *THE ROSARY*, by Maisie Ward. Finally from Scotland come, in an un-named series, *LETTERS TO A NURSE*, by John McKee, and *BEHIND THE SCENES*, by Alexander Gits, s.j. (John S. Burns, Glasgow, 3s. 6d. each.)

Related to our paper-back is the German *Taschenbuch*. Among those recently received are: in the Herder-Bücherei series, that pioneer classic, *VOM GEIST DER LITURGIE*, by Romano Guardini, the Cologne Carmel's *EDITH STEIN*, and German translations of Douglas Hyde's *I Believed* and Mauriac's *Le Nœud de Vipères* (Herder, 1.90 DM); in the Sigillum series, Blondel: *LOGIK DER TAT*, Claudel: *DER GNADENKRANZ*, Charles de Foucauld: *DER LETZTE PLATZ*, and Denys the Areopagite: *VON DEN NAMEN ZUM UNNENNbaren* (Johannes Verlag, n.p.); and —*Taschenbücher* which cease strictly to be paper-backs—three short works by Adrienne von Speyr from the same publisher: *ACHTZEHN PSALMEN*, *DER KOLOSSERBRIEF*, and *KREUZESWORT UND SAKRAMENT*.