

NOTICES

SISTER MARY LAURENCE, O.P., has followed her recent successful book on the enclosed contemplative life, *She Takes the Veil*, with another even more useful one on the same subject—*WITHIN THE WALLS* (Blackfriars Publications; 2s. 6d.) Supposedly writing to a young woman apostle outside the walls, she takes occasion to explain in detail the religious vows and vocation and the general 'working' of a contemplative community. She shows throughout how the apostle within the cloister works in union with the apostle outside. Her treatment of the vow of poverty is particularly useful and common sense, and leads us to hope for a larger, straightforward book from her pen on these topics. If, however, the author finds it necessary to write in this rather exasperating form of an imaginary correspondence we hope that in future she will provide an index or at least titles for reference.

LANCELOT SHEPPARD has now established himself as one of the principal and most accomplished translators of Catholic books from France. And when a translation of his appears the reader can be sure that the book is worthwhile and readable. His latest is *MIRACLES*, by Jean Hellé (Burns Oates; 15s.), a French journalist who has tackled what might be described as the official sensationalism of the Church. He deals with the approved miracles of the Curé d'Ars, Lourdes and Fatima, the doubtful ones of Therese Neumann and the children of Beauraing as well as others more evidently spurious. He supports the medical opinion that the stigmatist of Konnersreuth can be explained in terms of psycho-neurosis without questioning her own good will; he shows the inconsistencies and inventions at Beauraing. In short, he resists the journalist's temptation to make capital out of these sensations and produces a work of sustained interest and objectivity from start to finish.

One of the most exciting and encouraging developments in recent years has been the growth of 'personalist' medicine, which realises that patients can only be successfully treated in their total human situation, and that spiritual, social and emotional factors are always present in that situation. Doctors such as Tournier in Switzerland, Volk in Germany, and Goldstein in the U.S.A., are a few of the spokesmen in the development of 'personalist' medicine. One might have hoped that the Rede Lecture for 1953 by Dr A. G. Gardner (C.U.P. 2s. 6d.), *THE PROPER STUDY OF MANKIND*, would have done the same kind of thing for this country. It does not; for although Dr Gardner ranges widely over modern thought, his philosophical formulations are quite astonishingly crude, and not, therefore, very helpful.