

THE POLITICS OF HOPE (*Eyre and Spottiswode, 30s.*) is a collection of essays by Arthur M. Schlesinger, Jr, who served as one of President Kennedy's Special Assistants at the White House. In a moving foreword to the English edition of this wise and perceptive study of recent American history and of the men whose ideas have shaped it, Mr Schlesinger writes directly of John F. Kennedy: 'He gave America a new sense of itself – a new spirit, a new style, a new conception of its role and destiny . . . He was supremely a man of reason in an irrational world – and he fell the victim of insensate unreason'. These essays – whether they be concerned with 'Heroic Leadership', 'Liberalism in America' or the Oppenheimer case – reflect at every point the articulate mind and historic sense that marked the brief episode of the Kennedy régime. Mr Schlesinger is of course a distinguished historian in his own right, but his book is in a real sense a memorial to his master.

THE SPICE OF LIFE (*Darwen Finlayson, 21s*) is a collection of hitherto uncollected essays by G. K. Chesterton. Edited by his devoted secretary, Dorothy Collins, they include such characteristic pieces as a *Daily News* essay on 'The Peasant', the Encyclopaedia Britannica entry on 'Humour', *G.K.'s Weekly* columns and literary studies on *King Lear*, Charlotte Brontë and Aesop's Fables. To a generation that scarcely knows him, this collection will prove a happy introduction. It may even do something to revive interest in that vanished form, the essay, of which Chesterton remarks: 'The perfect essay has never been

written, for the simple reason that the essay has never really been written'. Here at least are some brilliant indications of how it failed to be done.

CHRIST, THE CHURCH AND THE POOR (*Geoffrey Chapman, 15s*) is a study by Paul Gauthier (translated by Edward Fitzgerald), of the Christian tradition of poverty, not only in its scriptural sources but in its application in the life of the Church. Abbé Gauthier is the founder of the Companions of Jesus the Carpenter and in his work in Nazareth he has given practical proof of the evangelical charity and poverty for which he pleads in this book. An appendix gives the text of 'A Proposed Way of Life for the Companions' and it is followed by extracts from Cardinal Lercaro's speech at the first session of the Vatican Council in which he pleaded that the Council 'give pride of place to the development of the Gospel doctrine of the holy poverty of Christ in the Church'.

THE LIFE OF CHRIST (*Faith and Fact Books: Burns and Oates, 9s 6d*) is a straightforward introduction to the reading of the Gospel. Written by Daniel-Rops (translated by J. R. Foster), it has all that author's remarkable gift of popularization which made his *Jesus in his Time* a universal best-seller. He is not concerned with details of exegesis or of textual criticism, though recent studies are indicated. Rather is this a consecutive narrative, faithful to the Gospel accounts and only intended to help readers to approach them with greater understanding.