

principles which are too seldom noticed in our current teaching and practice of prayer. We then proceed to the modes of prayer, to why, how, and for what we should pray; to commentary on the Lord's prayer, and to a final chapter on the prayer of the Church. A most useful aid to devotion, in which the author, with wise modesty, lets Augustine speak for himself.

The works of St Ambrose translated in the 44th volume of *Fathers of the Church Inc.* are the *De Mysteriis*, *De Spiritu Sancto*, *De Sacramento Incarnationis Domini*, and *De Sacramentis*. Patristic writings really require more extended introduction and commentary than it seems to be the policy of this series to provide, and could do with better translation. In this volume it is at times so wooden as to be quite impenetrable by the nail of understanding, however hard it is hit by the hammer of application. St Ambrose may not have quite deserved the strictures of Jerome on his style. They would have been drawn without injustice on his translator.

EDMUND HILL, O.P.

THE EXEMPLAR—The Life and Writings of Blessed Henry Suso, O.P. Complete edition based on MSS with critical introduction and explanatory notes by Nicholas Heller. Translated from the German by Sister Ann Edward, O.P.; Priory Press, Dubuque, Iowa, 3 guineas.

The works comprised in Suso's *Exemplar* are his Autobiography, the Little Book of Eternal Wisdom, the Little Book of Truth, the Little Book of Letters, and five sermons. A very handsome job has been made of the printing and presentation, but the translation will not be to everybody's taste. In some places it benefits from a gay, modern rendering ('Brother, how dense can you be?') and at other times the German gets the upper hand, for instance in 'the submersion of oneself into the nothingness, and the extrication of oneself from all sensible images'. The romantic, Minnesänger approach of Suso is a thing of great delight, even if it tends to cloy in this present two volume quantity.

GEOFFREY WEBB

Notices

Two years ago the editor of *Nuclear Weapons and Christian Conscience*, Mr Walter Stein, had some difficulty in getting it published at all. Yet today the work of these five Catholic laymen is recognised as an outstanding contribution to the nuclear debate; a sane, reasoned, but uncompromising moral argument against such weapons. A sign of this change is that it can now be re-issued as *Nuclear Weapons: a Catholic Response* with a postscript by a priest and among the Cardinal Books (9s. 6d) of Burns and Oates. A number of careful corrections to the original text have been made, and appear in a lighter print, giving the book

a suitably leprous appearance.

The Missal Step by Step by Gerald Vann, O.P. and Donald Young (Burns and Oates, 6s.) contains the full text of the ordinary with the Finberg-O'Connell translation, together with a simple paraphrase, explanations and pictures which should make it of real help to children. The English of the proper for some Sundays and feasts is also given.

The Study of Worship by Graham Jenkins (Challoner, 8s. 6d.) provides miscellaneous information about every aspect of liturgy, chosen and put together, so far as one can see, almost at random. But the extensive bibliographies make it worth mentioning.

Gospel Background by B. A. Pickering (DLT, 13s. 6d.) is a short handbook of essential information about the gospels and their background, for the use of schools. The weakest feature is a bibliography in which many of the books are thoroughly out of date in content and outlook. A handbook of this kind must help to point beyond itself.

Augustine's *City of God* is one of the most daunting of the world's great books, long, rambling, and often alien to modern ways of thought: add to this the lack of a good modern translation and it is not surprising that few but scholars have read it. Dr Wand's new abridged translation (O.U.P., 21s.) should do much to change the situation; it is lively and readable, a mere 400 pages in length, and beautifully produced for the price.

On the cover of *Joseph: the man closest to Jesus* by Francis Filas, S.J. (St Paul Editions, n.p.) it is described as 'the only survey existing in any language of the complete life, theology and devotional history of St Joseph'. One need only add that all 677 pages speak eloquently of the vital need for the renewal of theology throughout the Catholic Church. The hand of death is heavy on it here right enough.

Holiness in Action by Roland Cluny (Burns and Oates, Faith and Fact, 9s. 6d.) is a journalistic piece quite unworthy of its theme. 'He was short, with a squat body, thickset shoulders, bandy legs, a skull bare of hair, bushy eyebrows which met in the middle, and a nose that betrayed his origin. But admittedly this graceless body hid a soul bursting with power and dazzling with light.' The author is speaking of St Paul, and maintains the mixture of conjecture, fact, coarseness of expression, and bombast, throughout the book.

The Mercier Press, Cork, are to be congratulated on a new series of paperback reprints and translations, nicely produced and printed, at reasonable prices, in Holland. *The Meaning of Love and Marriage* by Alphonsus Jansen (5s.) is first-rate. Clearly expressed, candid, and theologically correct, it can be recommended unreservedly to adolescents and upwards. Three others are more technical: Fr Snoeck's *Confession and Pastoral Theology* (6s.) and two volumes of the *Cahiers Laënnec*, edited by Dom Peter Flood as *New Problems in Medical Ethics* (5s. each). These seem to have appeared in English before, but in common with some other publishers the Mercier Press provide less than the required information on such matters.