

start and re-stating its original aims and ideals. This year the centenary of the Apparitions of our Lady at Lourdes has been reached and is being celebrated all over the world. Many books have appeared on the subject, and the one under review is one which will do much to forward the second of the alternative attitudes that have been suggested above.

Mgr Deery in writing this book intended it primarily for those who will be unable to visit the famous shrine, although pilgrims themselves will find it very useful, and much more readable than most guide-books, to take with them and to read again and again on their return.

Having visited the shrine every year for the past thirty years, the author has caught the spirit of Lourdes and brings it out clearly in the book. In giving us a brief history of the town of Lourdes and the surrounding countryside he prepares us admirably for what is to follow. He tells again the story—and it cannot be told too often—of Bernadette, of her family and childhood, of the apparitions, of her later life and sufferings, and puts them all into their proper perspective: Bernadette 'was not canonized because she was favoured with the apparitions of the Blessed Virgin, nor even because she participated actively in the foundation of the vast power-house which Lourdes has become. The reason for her canonization was that she had lived a life of heroic sanctity, based on the instruction and example she had received at Massabielle' (p. 65).

In this one book the author treats of all the many aspects there are of Lourdes: he gives interesting accounts of the buildings at Lourdes, including the new Church of S. Pius X which is to be opened at Easter, of the work for the sick and the organization of the Medical Bureau and International Medical Organization; he gives us details of some of the many miraculous cures obtained at the shrine; and he outlines the development of the ceremonies as they have grown up in answer to our Lady's request that the faithful should come in procession. In a final section, 'The Significance of Lourdes'—which is specially noted by the Archbishop of Dublin in his foreword—the message of Lourdes is concisely and simply put before us; 'the necessity for penitential prayer is, accordingly, the essence of the message of Lourdes' (p. 248).

It is fortunate that the distressing dust-cover is removable from this excellent book.

MICHAEL PLATTS, O.P.

THE LIVING GOD AND THE ROSARY OF OUR LADY. By Romano Guardini. (Longmans; 9s. 6d.)

The addresses contained in *The Living God* 'were not written in the study but arose from the depth and joy of that relationship which

exists between the preacher and the congregation that confides in him'. These are the opening words of the introduction. Mgr Guardini goes on to say that as a result his words appearing in print may very well lose some of their vital quality. I think that this is true, and that they inevitably do. To those who know Mgr Guardini well it may well appear obvious that it really is to them that he is talking, and they may feel that relationship truly present. Those who have read much of his writings will feel that they are being addressed by a familiar friend. Few, I fear, however, will feel that it is really to them or with them that he is speaking—this despite a beautiful freeness of manner and naturalness of expression.

The author does not set out to prove anything, but rather to leave behind an impression, one which should give the deep realization that God is not a history-book autocrat demanding a particular code of behaviour, but a living and loving God. He does this in a dozen addresses not following on one from another, but rather encircling and pervading his subject. With the reservation made above, he has done this very beautifully. The translation is not consistently satisfactory. Words are used sometimes in a way that is not really possible in English. The word 'Providence' is a striking example. Apart from this blemish, the translation is pleasant and easy.

In *The Rosary of Our Lady* the author would wish to lead his reader into 'a world filled with tranquil life, a world in which he would meet, serene and benevolent, the holy images of faith'. This, he admits, is beyond his power; 'so I have substituted my thoughts'. His thoughts are indeed filled with tranquil life, and may be able to help some of the less tranquil among his readers in their approach to this great prayer. Objectively, however, this section of this book is slight; but at any rate it helps bring up the number of pages to a publishable figure.

G.R.H.

THE CATHOLIC PRIESTHOOD: Papal Documents from Pius X to Pius XII. (Gill and Son, Dublin; 35s.)

*Notre Sacerdoce* is a collection, in two volumes, of the teaching of the popes of the present century on the priesthood—the second volume being devoted entirely to Pius XII. Its compiler is Monsignor Pierre Veuillot, an official of the Vatican Secretariate of State, and Archbishop Montini, who at that time was in Rome, wrote a preface for it.

The collection of papal documents has been put into English by three Maynooth professors (Rev. John A. O'Flynn, in collaboration with Rev. P. Birch and Very Rev. G. Canon Mitchell) and published in one volume by Messrs Gill under the title of *The Catholic Priesthood*. One effect of the fact of the French being in two volumes is that the