

St Teresa, St John of the Cross, have reached a high degree of union with God, whether this be accompanied by ecstasies and visions or not? A person who does not enjoy such a union, though he or she may be subject to trances and exhibit other unusual phenomena, surely ought not to be called a mystic. Hence very few of the subjects of the study under review could be so named; several, e.g. Marie Julie Jahenny, John Thom, 'Georges Marasco' and the false visionaries of Lourdes were no more than deluded neurotics. In fact true mystics are very rarely 'surprising'.

Apart from this misleading terminology, however, the book is a mine of information, containing much highly interesting and otherwise not easily accessible material. The comments of Father Thurston, sometimes tantalizingly sparing, should be pondered by all who are interested, whether professionally or otherwise, in mystical phenomena and their neurotic counterfeits.

HILDA C. GRAEF

A NEW WAY OF THE CROSS. Contemplated by Father Raymond, O.C.S.O., illustrated by John Andrews. (Clonmore and Reynolds; 10s. 6d.)

This is certainly a new approach to the Stations. Stark dark pictures of hands, vivid emotional descriptions of what the hands suggest to the mind and heart of a holy Cistercian with a flair for phrases that register. The hands are the hands of our Lord, bound with cord, receiving the cross, pressed to the ground when he falls, pierced with the nails. As a method of meditation it is irresistible. Our Lady's hands and Veronica's hands are also firmly depicted. The twelfth Station is just the two feet of our Lord nailed with one nail to the wood. The fourteenth is the Shroud draping his feet. On the page opposite each picture you have Father Raymond's reflections. He follows the liturgical thread, the Mass, the pervading idea of membership of the mystical body of Christ, self-immolation. The style, rather dramatic American, harmonises with the pictures. Both are very effective.

G.M.C.

WHY HAST THOU COME? By John Carr, C.S.S.R. (Clonmore and Reynolds; 10s. 6d.)

This is a humble helpful book, a useful stimulus for those who have lived the religious life for some years and have become slack. It also provides good strong meat for those, men and women, who are actively engaged in religious life in the world in Secular Institutes.