

BLACKFRIARS

to consider the source of this earthly mission, the source of this Christian grace, where the author would treat of the Holy Trinity and of the unity of the Godhead finishing off the whole in an admirable synthesis? This seems to be a possible conclusion to the more psychological approach to theology, and we look forward to the time when P. Mersch makes a complete synthesis of theology under this aspect. The attempt has already been made by the Abbé Anger and Ernest Mura, who show the universality of the doctrine of the Mystical Body in the whole of Christian doctrine, but no one has as yet set forth theology fully in those terms. We look therefore to P. Mersch.

CONRAD PEPLER, O.P.

SUMMA THEOLOGIAE MORALIS. By Benedict Henry Merkelbach, O.P. Vol. I de Principiis et Virtutibus theologicis; pp. 786; Vol. II, de virtutibus Moralibus, pp. 1029; Vol. III, de Sacramentis; pp. 1024. (Desclée, de Brouwer.)

The second and enlarged edition of Fr. Merkelbach's widely-known work, which has already won the unanimous praise of numerous theologians, among them a previous reviewer in BLACKFRIARS (July, 1932). This edition is more than a reprint as it contains a number of fresh items so bringing it up-to-date with decisions of the Holy See, and other changes with a view to giving precision and removing possible obscurity.

The first volume investigates the general principles which govern the rest of moral theology. The theological virtues, as being at the root of all practical morality, likewise receive special treatment in this place.

The second volume is devoted to the cardinal virtues, and to the other virtues associated with them. We remark with pleasure that no less than 131 pages have been assigned to the virtue of prudence, under which is properly included the treatise on conscience.

The third volume is a complete and lucid treatment on the Sacraments, partially from the speculative but mainly from the practical standpoint. Whilst avoiding the prevalent failing of intermingling without discrimination Canon Law with Moral Theology, actual needs are provided for by citing recent ecclesiastical decisions in their proper places. Especially in regard to marriage, owing to the complexity of the matter and the growing problems which call for solution, the treatise of the earlier edition has received considerable development.

An independent value is given to each volume by the addition of a separate alphabetical index, so making the work of reference both pleasing and easy.

AMBROSE FARRELL, O.P.