

Blackfriars

The task is well executed, and much matter otherwise difficult of access is brought together. In the 'List of Books Consulted' by the Author, we notice an almost complete absence of English authorities. And although smaller countries like Latvia and Esthonia, Eritrea and Kenya, Dahomey and Liberia, are touched upon, and even the smaller islands of the Pacific are fully dealt with, there is a complete omission of the West Indies, where there are numerous Bishops and clergy and several millions of Catholics. This hiatus seems quite astonishing in a book otherwise wonderfully complete.

F.R.B.

THE DOCTRINE OF THE MYSTICAL BODY OF CHRIST ACCORDING TO THE PRINCIPLES OF THE THEOLOGY OF ST. THOMAS. Translated from the French of Abbé Anger by Rev. John J. Burke, C.S.P., S.T.D. (Longmans, Green & Co.; 12/-.)

This is a book for all, for it concerns us all urgently, and the language is of the simplest, as befits the ineffable mysteries of which it speaks. It shows how the Mystical Body, the purpose of the Incarnation and life of Christ, is the purpose of our lives too, and how all that we are called upon to believe or to do converge to its realization and fulfilment.

There is nothing in the book that is new, yet even the expert theologian cannot afford to disregard it. It is a piece of synthetic Theology, showing how, as Père Vosté says, 'all the mysteries of Redemption and salvation centre themselves in the union of the faithful with Christ.'

V.W.

THE WAY OF THE CROSS. By Romano Guardini. (Sheed & Ward; 2/6.)

The Way of the Cross—among the Church's popular devotions one of the most popular—clearly bears the marks of its popularity, perhaps chiefly in the pictorial representations of the actual Stations. This little book stresses the personal and popular aspect of the devotion by relating the incidents of Our Lord's Passion to the everyday happenings of our lives, 'the Way of the Cross is a holy school of life and of suffering in which we find our daily existence reflected.' Truly, as this book tells us, all words are empty when it is a question of discoursing on the sufferings of Christ: with quiet dignity, with simplicity and restraint its author offers suggestions and thoughts on the Redeeming Work of Christ. It aims at teaching us in this supreme matter to think for ourselves and to make our prayer our own; and 'the sooner the little book has made itself superfluous, the sooner is its author's object attained.'

C.N.L.