

## REVIEWS

aggressiveness. Behind it, infallible as it generally is, there lies no comfortableness, no complacency. In the very best sense the work is Catholic, though this fact is not in any way obtrusive. We want more work with such qualities—and could we have it in greater detail? If there is any weak point in these powerful essays it is one almost inevitable to their form. They are brief, and so somewhat facile, the judgments and historical statements showing at times austerity of outline.

The historian has a pit dug round him; not the least deep places in which are the two temptations: to interpret (1) without the most searching meditation on his facts, their respective probabilities, and (2) without due entertainment of the part unconscious and mass psychology play in the fabric of history. This psychological instrument has been sharpened to-day and we think Mr. Hoffman has not neglected the point. Some pitfalls are inevitable, but he is it seems determined not to be tempted into these two deeps. This is a pregnant sign for the future historical labours of the author.

PETER PAUL FEENY, O.P.

MONSEIGNEUR SIX, Premier Missionaire du Travail. Par J. Lamoot. (Editions Spes; 20 frs.)

The title given to Monseigneur Six in the naming of this book looks like an exaggerated claim. But it was given by Pius XI. And the book shows why.

In the 1870s, before *Rerum Novarum*, the Abbé Six, a young curate then, saw ahead that the industrial opportunity was to make an entirely new problem for the Church, and came to the conclusion that "a purely religious apostolate would not suffice in the new world which was arising under the extraordinary developments of the machine." He groped and grappled with the problem, following the work of Léon Harmel and La Tour du Pin. Then came *Rerum Novarum*, an echo and a canonisation of his half-formed convictions. From that time his life with little interruption was dedicated to the Apostolate of the Workers; study circles, retreats, "Militants' Days," schools, organisations, a Review, finally Director of the Social Action of Lille, a work making itself felt in the whole of the Christian Social Movement of the Nord.

And in all his work, as his biographer draws out, the Abbé Six preserved the difficult balance and kept clear the idea of the primacy of the supernatural aim of the Church and of his own Priesthood. Therefore his example is doubly valuable. There is always this danger in Catholic Social Action: that it turns the Faith into a "Philosophy," a panacea for social ills, and shifts the

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Gospel emphasis from the future to the present life. This evacuates Christianity, and causes it to be judged falsely as a complete "social" system and responsible for social ills and their cure—which it is not, lacking means of coercion. The example of the truly balanced attitude will be found in Monseigneur Six, Apostle of Work.

This book offers an opportunity for someone to do a good service to the Church in England by translating.

FINBAR SYNNOTT, O.P.

LA VIE EN FLEUR, Ce qu'une Adolescente du XXe. Siècle doit savoir, par Marguerite Csaba, Adaptation française par Marie Francoeur (Editions Salvator, Mulhouse, Haut-Rhin; 15 frs.).

A LA SOURCE PURE DE LA VIE, Conseils à des Mères Chrétiennes sur l'Initiation Sexuelle des Enfants, par R. P. Schmitz, traduit de l'Allemand par M. l'Abbé E. Roblin. (Editions Salvator; 4 frs.)

LECONS CATECHETIQUES SUR LE SIXIEME COMMANDEMENT par Chanoine Leopold Uhl, traduit de l'Allemand par M. l'Abbé L. Dehaene. (Editions Salvator; 9 frs.)

French Catholics are fortunate indeed to have the Editions Salvator, as well as the Maginot line, on their eastern frontier.

This enterprising firm appears to make it its chief business to make available the works of Central European Catholics for French consumption. A particular speciality is the translation and adaptation of books of sex instruction by Catholics. English Catholic publishing houses would render an immense service were they to follow the example of this Alsatian firm. The fewness of such works in English is little short of a disgrace.

Unfortunately Editions Salvator is not always over-discriminating in its choice of what to bring across the Rhine and what to leave the other side.

*Life in Flower, or What a Young Girl of the Twentieth Century ought to Know* is guaranteed by the patronage and the preface of Mgr. Tihamer Toth. It is written with frankness and understanding by a Hungarian woman doctor. While her judgments may sometimes seem a little severe (at least for rigorous application in the case of town-bred girls), there is no nonsense about Dr. Csaba; no attempt to veil matters behind a screen either of sentimental pietism or erotic romanticism. She is outspoken in her remarks on the sins of society, but never priggish. Hygiene, fashion, sport, reading, amusements and a host of other things come under consideration besides matters more directly sexual.