

## NOTICES

THE WAY OF MYSTICISM, an anthology arranged by Joseph James (Cape; 10s. 6d.) ranges from Al-Ghazali to Berdyaev, from St Teresa to Tagore. It faithfully reflects the contemporary interest in a mysticism that dispenses with the adherence of religious faith, but a reader who cares to make his own anthology from the immensely varied extracts brought together in the book can scarcely fail to find much that is memorable.

HE CAME DOWN FROM HEAVEN (Faber; 16s.) is a reprint of Charles Williams's essay, together with his *Forgiveness of Sins*, both for some years out of print. Messrs Faber are doing a great service in making his work generally available, and this latest volume is a further reminder of the power of his analysis and the creative quality of his theological writing.

ROMAN CATHOLICISM is a volume in Hutchinson's University Library (7s. 6d.) and is entrusted to Father Thomas Corbishley, S.J. In a hundred and forty pages he deals with the function and unity of the Catholic Church, and in addition discusses Catholic theology, social teaching, life and practice. It should be a valuable introduction for the general reader, and is a notable example of the difficult work of scholarly condensation.

HIGHROAD FROM PARIS by Theo Lang (Hodder and Stoughton; 18s.) describes journeys in France, made with the minimum of planning but enjoyed with the maximum of zest. But Mr Lang is not a mere tourist; his opinions are always vigorous, often perverse, and his shrewd account of French life seen *à l'auto-siop* must please anyone who loves France. There are charming illustrations by Sochachewsky.

THE HYMNS OF THE DOMINICAN MISSAL AND BREVIARY, edited by Fr Aquinas Byrnes, O.P. (Herder; 35s.) is now more readily available through English agents than at the time of its publication during the War. The metrical translations are remarkable good as a whole, but the most valuable part of the book consists of the literal prose translations at the foot of each page. In such a book the reader seeks not primarily poetry but an exact rendering of the original.

THE PROBLEM OF POETRY AND BELIEF IN CONTEMPORARY CRITICISM by William Rooney (Catholic University of America Press; \$1.75) discusses the necessity to accept a poet's religious and philosophical beliefs in order to appreciate his poetry. A survey of contemporary critical opinion (Richards, Allen Tate and Eliot among others) is provided, and the dissertation is a useful introduction to a vast literature on the subject.