

on for another fourteen years; the Spaniards, who had never commanded the Channel, were not blockaded nor were their revenues from the New World cut off, and the English enterprise of Portugal in 1589 ended in failure, almost as disastrous. But it was made clear that the religious unity of Europe was not to be re-established by force. The defeat left two religious ideas side by side—and the Pope not displeased that Spain, after all, was not God's chosen champion for the Church. It engendered a political myth more important than any contingent fact, of the victory of freedom for the weak over tyranny by the strong. A useful myth, if you also have the better ships and the better guns.

THOMAS GILBY, O.P.

THE DEVIL'S ADVOCATE. By Morris West. (Heinemann; 16s.)

IRON IN THE VALLEYS. By John Parker. (George Ronald; 15s.)

Priests are familiar character in novels by now, and one suspects that they are sometimes introduced to emphasize a spiritual and moral dilemma which a story could otherwise not sustain. But Mr West's absorbing account of an English monsignor's investigation into the alleged sanctity of a deserter who was killed by the Communists in Calabria is in effect a study of the priestly character, freed by the impact of death (the monsignor is dying of cancer) and a living contact with the people who have been inexorably linked by the man who was killed. It is profound in its understanding of suffering and of the baffling modalities of faith, and at the same time tells us much of the miseries of the *Mezzogiorno*.

Mr Parker says that his book is based on the life of the heroic Father Carroll, parish priest of Merthyr, who built a church and established the Catholic Faith amidst the horrors of the industrialization of South Wales. It is an unpretentious record of simple duty, perhaps too arbitrarily pressed into the pattern of a novel, when biography would have been better.

I.E.

NOTICES

THE MASS, a Liturgical Commentary by Canon A. Croegaert, translated by J. Holland Smith (Burns and Oates, 2 volumes, 30s. each), is an admirable guide to the history of the Roman rite. But it is more than a work of antiquarian scholarship, for Canon Croegaert's commentary is always concerned with the Mass as a living reality, and his detailed account of words and actions alike is always alive to that pastoral understanding of the liturgy which animated the great reforms of Pope Pius XII. The whole work is to be warmly recommended to those who wish to make of the Mass the central spiritual reality it is meant to be.

THE MASS THROUGH THE YEAR, by Aemiliana Löhr, translated by I. T. Hale (Longmans, 2 volumes, 30s. each), is a guide to the liturgical year as it is revealed in the text of the Sunday Masses. More meditative than Canon Croegaert's book, it reflects the teaching of the German Benedictine Dom Odo Cassel in its patristic sobriety and in its recapitulation of the great Christian mysteries in terms of their liturgical expression.

THE SMALL MISSAL (Burns and Oates, various editions from 6s. 6d.) is a new edition of a missal for Sundays and the principal feasts of the year. Admirably arranged and printed (in red and black throughout), this reasonably priced book contains such additional matter as the rites of marriage and burial, as well as the text of Sunday Compline, Benediction and some extra-liturgical prayers. The senior *Roman Missal* (edited by O'Connor-Finberg) is the model for the distinctive quality of this excellent example of liturgical printing, and—in this at least an improvement—brief notes and lives of saints provide a useful help for those—and they are surely the great majority—who want more than the bare text.

A MONASTERY IN MORAY, by Peter F. Anson (S.P.C.K., 30s.), is an account of Pluscarden Priory, founded near Elgin in 1230, and, since 1948, after five centuries of secular history, re-colonized by the Benedictine monks of Prinknash. The story of Pluscarden is, as Mr Anson says, 'a microcosm of the history of Scotland', and his book is a faithful record of the vicissitudes of a noble building which, almost alone of medieval monasteries, has returned to its proper use.

MOSES AND THE VOCATION OF THE JEWISH PEOPLE, by André Neher, and GEORGE FOX AND THE QUAKERS, by Henry Van Etten, are two titles in the 'Men of Wisdom' series, translated from the French (Longmans, 6s. each). These paper-backs, abundantly illustrated, give in less than two hundred pages each a clear and authoritative introduction to their subjects.

HILAIRE DE POITIERS, by Michel Meslin, and PAULIN DE NOLA, by Denys Gorce, appear in the 'Eglise d'hier et d'aujourd'hui' series (Paris: Les Editions Ouvrières, 390 francs each). St Hilary and St Paulinus of Nola are less familiar than they ought to be, and the excellent intention of this series, which is to introduce the general reader to the Fathers of the Church, is well served by brief accounts of their lives and liberal extracts from their writings.

MY FATHER'S BUSINESS is the English translation, by Edmund Gilpin, of Abbé Michonneau's book on the priesthood (Herder/Nelson, 18s.). Fired with the enthusiasm that made his *Revolution in a City Parish* so moving an account of the renewed vitality of French Catholic life, the author writes from a wide experience and an even wider charity.

LOUISE DE MARILLAC, by J. Calvet, translated by G. F. Pullen (Geoffrey Chapman, 18s.), is the life of the saint who, despite countless hardships, founded the Ladies of Charity and was St Vincent de Paul's principal collaborator in his works of Mercy.

SAINT MARY EUPHRASIA, by Gaëtan Bernoville (Clonmore and Reynolds, 21s.), is a translation, generously illustrated, of the life of the foundress of the Good Shepherd Sisters, known throughout the world for their work of moral re-education among girls. Her sanctity was expressed in a deep understanding of human needs, and her biographer draws a sympathetic picture both of the saint and of the work she created.

THE HEROES OF GOD, by Daniel-Rops, translated by Lawrence G. Blochman (World's Work, 21s.), is a collection of lives of ten men and one woman who gave their lives for the Faith. They range from St Paul to Father Nussbaum, who was killed in Tibet in 1941, and reflect Daniel-Rops' special gift of popularizing religious writing without betraying its strength.

THE NEW ARK LIBRARY makes available once more in paper-back form some of the most familiar of Sheed and Ward titles. Karl Adam's *Spirit of Catholicism* (6s.) has long since established itself as a classical presentation of the Church; Dom John Chapman's *Spiritual Letters* (7s.), despite the reservations

some theologians might continue to make about details of the Abbot's teaching on prayer, is that rare book, an authentically English contribution to the literature of contemplation; Henri Ghéon's *Secret of the Curé d'Arx* (6s.) is now in its fifteenth impression; and the *Collected Letters of St Thérèse of Lisieux* (7s.) makes readily available an essential document in the understanding of the most popular of saints.

LIGHTNING MEDITATIONS (Sheed and Ward, 12s. 6d.) brings together the brief sermons which Ronald Knox contributed each month to *The Sunday Times* from 1951 until his death. Here epigrams illuminate the hard things of faith, and the rigorous limits of a newspaper column give discipline to a style that grew slack with freedom.

THE VISION OF PIERS PLOWMAN, in a translation by Henry W. Wells, with an introduction by Nevil Coghill, was first published in 1935 and is now available again (Sheed and Ward, 18s.). So, too, is F. J. Sheed's NULLITY OF MARRIAGE in a new and revised edition (12s. 6d.).

AMERICAN CRITICAL ESSAYS, selected by Harold Beaver (World's Classics; Oxford, 7s.), includes a wide range of twentieth-century literary criticism, from Ezra Pound ('What is Literature?') to W. H. Auden on Henry James.

THE TWENTY ECUMENICAL COUNCILS OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH, by Clement Raab, O.F.M. (Newman Press, \$3.50), is a useful summary of the proceedings and decisions of the Councils, and is intended as a guide to the background of the forthcoming Council called by the present Pope.

PENGUIN BOOKS of special interest include the MAXIMS of La Rochefoucauld (translated by L. W. Hancock, 2s. 6d.), part two of Goethe's FAUST (translated by Philip Wayne, 3s. 6d.), YET MORE COMIC AND CURIOUS VERSE (collected by J. M. Cohen, 5s.), KHRUSHCHEV'S RUSSIA (a 'special' by Edward Crankshaw, which gives an authentic picture of the economic and political climate of Russia now; 2s. 6d.), THREE IRISH PLAYS (namely, Denis Johnston's *Moon in the Yellow River*, Joseph O'Connor's *Iron Harp* and Donagh Macdonagh's *Step-in-the-Hollow* 3s. 6d.), and THE PENGUIN BOOK OF ENGLISH FOLK SONGS, an excellent collection selected and edited by Vaughan Williams and A. L. Lloyd (3s. 6d.), which, with its provision of melodies and detailed notes on the songs, must be counted a notable bargain.

FONTANA BOOKS continue their admirable policy of making modern religious classics available at cheap prices, and among recent titles are Newman's APOLOGIA (3s. 6d.), Dietrich Bonhoeffer's LETTERS AND PAPERS FROM PRISON (2s. 6d.), Simone Weil's WAITING ON GOD (2s. 6d.), J. B. Phillips' translation of Acts (THE YOUNG CHURCH IN ACTION, 2s. 6d.) and, unexpectedly, C. H. Dodd's commentary on THE EPISTLE OF PAUL TO THE ROMANS (2s. 6d.).

THE CHILDREN'S BIBLE (Burns and Oates, 10s. 6d.) is something wholly new in religious books: an abbreviated Bible, with brilliantly devised illustrations, which tells the story of man's salvation in terms that small children can grasp. Translated from a German original, this gay and glowing book can be warmly recommended to parents and teachers.

PROVING GOD (The Month, 3s.) contains the fragments that were all that could be found of a book on apologetics planned by Ronald Knox. Mr Evelyn Waugh, in a preface, describes them as of interest 'in giving a glimpse into the workshop from which hitherto there had issued only perfect models'.

THE PROBLEM OF EVIL by François Petit, O.PRAEM., and POST-REFORMATION SPIRITUALITY by Louis Cognet, are the latest volumes in the *Faith and Fact* Series (Burns and Oates, 7s. 6d. each) and continue the useful work of providing informed and readable summaries of complex questions.

THE IMITATION OF CHRIST was being translated afresh by Ronald Knox when he died. Completed by Michael Oakley, his version now appears in a paperback published by Burns and Oates at 3s. 6d., and must be counted an excellent example of publishing enterprise. Michael Oakley's continuation is remarkably faithful to Mgr Knox's characteristic style, and the most familiar of spiritual classics takes on a fresh life with such phrases as 'After all, it isn't learned talk that saves a man'.

THE MASS OF THE ROMAN RITE, by Father Joseph Jungmann, s.j., in its English translation was reviewed at length in this journal in June 1958. A revised and abridged edition in one volume, edited by Charles Riepe, under Father Jungmann's direction, has now appeared (Burns and Oates, 70s.). Preserving all that is essential for the non-technical reader, this greatest of contemporary liturgical studies should now reach a wider audience and take its place as an essential commentary on the development of the Roman Liturgy.

ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI (Mowbray, 15s.) is a new translation by Leo Sherley-Price of *The Mirror of Perfection* (the records and recollections of the saint's first followers) and of all the known writings of St Francis himself. A clear and flexible version does justice to the charm of the original.

LIFE AFTER DEATH is an anthology, edited and compiled by the Earl of Wicklow (Clonmore and Reynolds, 12s. 6d.). Drawn from such modern spiritual writers as Ronald Knox, Bede Jarrett, Fr C. C. Martindale and Abbot Vonier, it is an attractive *catena* of sound doctrine and sympathy.

NOTICE

READERS are reminded that BLACKFRIARS is now published towards the end of the month, and the next (March) issue will appear on February 20. It will include 'Et Nos Mutaumur in Illis' by C. C. Martindale, s.j., 'The Enforcement of Morals' by Thomas Gilby, o.p., 'The Irish in England' by John Fitzsimons' and 'Words and Things' by Michael Dummett. There will be a 'Persona' of Father Lonergan, s.j., a survey of some recent work in the social sciences and a commentary on Italian intellectual opinion. Archbishop David Mathew will review Dom David Knowles' final volume on the Religious Orders in England.