

consolation to me, even unto the grief itself, it would make me think deeper'. W. R. Rogers recalls in his introduction how her son Tom was killed, falling on to the rocks from a cliff, and how she, in order to make the corpse presentable to the public, 'with breaking heart, had gathered her courage together and . . . stroked and coaxed the damaged skull into shape. "It was difficult", she would say; and then, with a flick of the shawl she wore, she would invoke the name of the Blessed Virgin, saying "Let everyone carry his cross".' No Mother Macree here, no Schmalz, just the unassuming fortitude of a deeply convinced Christian. Peig reveals in almost everything she says that special gift that will always belong to the simple and unspoiled in Ireland, which one feels quite justified in describing, when one has met with it over and over again, as a unique perception of reality, both in the world of nature and the life of faith.

GEOFFREY WEBB

THE VOICE OF LOURDES: A pilgrimage in vision and sound. Text by Illtud Evans, O.P., with an introduction by the Cardinal Archbishop of Westminster; Hutchinson; 22s. 6d.

Soundprint, or Three Dimensional Reading, is an entirely new concept in book production, and the theme of this book lends itself with singular felicity to the new technique. The text, by Father Illtud Evans, O.P., is a comprehensive yet condensed account of the history of Lourdes and of its saint. The author several times underlines the fact that the primary message of Lourdes is not bodily healing, that the suffering of the sick is there related to that of Christ, and that penance is at the heart of Lourdes. The text is lavishly illustrated with varied and well-chosen photographs; the covers of the book have two pockets containing unbreakable feather-weight records. The reader can look at the pictures while listening to the recordings of the bells, the sound of thousands of voices praying, the processions, and finally the voice of Pope John XXIII when, as Cardinal Roncalli, he consecrated the underground basilica.

This book would surely make an unusual present for the many blind people who now listen to talking books, and who could find a friend to read the text aloud to them before playing the records. It would also be an admirable book to lend to those who have hitherto been repelled by a tawdry or sentimental presentation. The author's style combines sobriety and wonder.

MARGARET WILEMAN