

MARRIAGE. By Bishop Von Streng. (Burns, Oates; 3s. 6d.)

Good Catholic literature on this subject is so scarce that a book which promises to deal frankly and sympathetically with adult problems must be eagerly welcomed. Perhaps there is no subject which needs to be so delicately as well as so frankly handled; nowhere is any suggestion of smugness, scrupulosity or saccharine 'spirituality' more repellent than in a book of this kind. The style in which the book is written will be of very great importance. While we cannot expect every author to write with the stark and scientific simplicity informed with tenderness which characterised T. G. Wayne's *Morals and Marriage*, it will be agreed that Bishop Von Streng is indeed fortunate in having a translator whose floweriness and verbosity are bound to alienate all sensitive readers. It would be tedious to enumerate the unfortunate and even incorrect renderings in which the book abounds, but surely someone might have warned the translator against the indiscriminate use of the word 'venerable' and against referring to the partners in a marriage as 'spouses' or even 'consorts'!

But we are convinced that the pietistic, the sentimental smack of the book is unjust to its author. For Bishop Von Streng is a sane and practical counsellor who shows himself vividly aware of the difficulties with which people have now to contend. His concern is with real people and real problems, and his advice is wise and moderate. The book should correct many false emphases, ideas which are more assumed than asserted, but which do so much to prevent the foundation of a sincere and integral Catholic outlook on sex among at any rate the younger generation.

The Bishop's *positive* attitude throughout the book is notable and refreshing. He shows that marriage can only be based on self-sacrifice and self-control, but he ends: 'Marriage comes as near to being a real paradise as may be expected on this earth overshadowed by original sin.'

MARGARET MURPHY.

SCRIPTURAL BULLETIN

The two essays forming this pamphlet¹ have been published in view of a project planned by a group of ministers of the Church of England of working out a statement concerning the Inspiration and the Inerrancy of the Bible that should repre-

¹ *Towards Catholic Unity—II. The Inspiration and Inerrancy of the Bible.* P. J. Thompson, M.A., and H. E. Symonds, M.A., B.D. (S.P.C.K.; 1s.)