

BLACKFRIARS

contained in the preface—add very little to its proper usefulness. It is not a work that one could begin to compare with, for example, the *Evangeliorum Synopsis* of Camerlynck. Still it remains that the Clementine text is here, that the price of the book is very low, the print acceptable, the cover firm and neat. *Et tempus breve est.*

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THE CATHOLIC DOCTOR. By Fr. A. Bonnar, O.F.M., D.D.
(Burns, Oates; 7s. 6d.)

Catholic Doctors should be grateful to Fr. Bonnar for this exposition of the Catholic solution of the many and often difficult moral problems arising in medical practice. Obviously to write usefully on such a subject the mere knowledge of moral principles is not sufficient. There must also be accurate and at times even detailed knowledge of the purely medical features of the case which gives rise to a moral question. Fr. Bonnar has taken care to inform himself adequately upon such matters, as is proved by the imposing list of distinguished members of the medical profession consulted by him in the course of writing this book.

The preliminary chapters are concerned with the nature of the Church, its origin, spirit, claims and organisation, and with some other general matters—all of which is intended to form an “intellectual background” to the solution of particular questions. As an outline statement this part of the book is excellent, but we are of the opinion that its practical utility would have been enhanced, had further reading been suggested, particularly in the case of the first chapter. Complex and comprehensive questions suffer by being unduly compressed.

In dealing with the moral problems with which the doctor is faced Fr. Bonnar aims at giving the accepted and certain Catholic teaching. We think therefore that he should have mentioned that the view expressed at the foot of p. 82 is one opposed by theologians of at least equal standing with the one whose authority he quotes for it. Apart from this and from one or two other passages which could have been more clearly or accurately expressed, we have nothing but admiration for the lucidity with which the Catholic position is stated and justified. The chapter on Euthanasia and Sterilisation is particularly clear and convincing. We hope that this book will have the wide circulation among priests, doctors and nurses that it deserves.

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