

WHITHER GOEST THOU? By the Most Reverend E. K. Lynch, Ph.D., D.D., O.Carm. (Newman Press; \$4.75.)

These thirty-three conferences deal with subjects such as the Rule, the Vows, the practice of virtue, the Sacraments, devotion to our Lady, and the spiritual exercises, such as meditation, reading, and the Divine Office, of every day. A man who is obliged to cross a desert on his way to a distant town will at intervals, perhaps, find an oasis and a crystal spring, at which to refresh himself. He will drink great draughts of the sparkling water, and wash the sand and sweat from his eyes and his body. Then, with a cleared vision, and a sense of renewed life and hope, he will press on to his goal. Those who have been privileged to hear these conferences preached must, I think, have received a like sense of spiritual refreshment and renewal, and their presentation in book form should afford a similar revival of spiritual life to all who study them. The courageous attack they make on every form of spiritual blindness and every type of mediocrity in the religious life is what perhaps constitutes their greatest usefulness. They are as a bright mirror in which we may examine our features and see if they are likely to be pleasing to God and his blessed Mother. How clean are our consciences? How charitable is our intercourse with our fellows? How earnest are our resolutions? How ardent are our efforts at self-conquest? How stained are we by self-love, by laxity in obedience, by ambition, jealousy, or what not? 'The lax religious is like a bad apple in the midst of a crate of apples; he spreads corruption and decay far beyond himself, and is the willing tool of the devil for the destruction of the whole spiritual organism of his community.' The writer then proceeds to build up the true ideal of the religious house and its occupants. 'In every religious the fire of charity must burn, and it is from our hearts that it must return to a cold and sinful world.'

This book should offer useful suggestions and afford material to many priests who have the duty of giving retreats, as it offers, not to religious only, but to all who are seeking to live earnest Catholic lives, invaluable instructions, warnings and inspirations, which, if carefully studied, will lead them far on their way. 'Live for the day, try to live every minute of it well, and the morrow will take care of itself.' 'Our life is full of little things, but if they are done for love, the omnipotent hand of God weaves them into the crown which rests for ever upon the head of the faithful servant.' With these encouraging thoughts, the writer brings his book to a close.

O. CARM.