

which are best assimilated at prayer. There are two parts competently arranged with scholarly notes. The first section, which is certainly more fascinating, provides us with ancient forms of the order of the Mass in the Eastern and Western rites dating from the third century. Their scope is truly catholic. Familiarity with these lovely old litanies and anaphora makes one appreciate far more the condensed form of the Roman rite as used today, and deepens our understanding of the liturgy at the end of Holy Week. The second section, containing many lovely Prefaces, is a selection of prayers for use in the course of the liturgical cycle or upon such solemn occasions as baptism and marriage. The whole is designed for private, domestic or parochial use and should become as precious a companion as one's daily missal. A further edition could perhaps correct the numbering of the prayers (98 is omitted) and the printer's error in line two of number 67.

ST M. AGNES, O.P.

REFLECTIONS ON THE PASSION. By Charles Hugo Doyle. (Bruce; 14s.)

This is a useful pocket book with simple, practical meditations which can be absorbed while going to work on the train or at almost any odd time of day. It seems to give old examples a fresh entrance into the mind. For instance (on Temptation, first week in Lent): 'Suppose the friend was not victorious, that he failed—failed because no one came to help him.' We are brought at once from the abstractions of exhortation to the concrete realities: we remember that our friend needs the strength of our love at the time of temptation, not afterwards. 'We often allow others', says another meditation (in Holy Week), 'to tell us our duty. If my wife would be more religious, I'd be religious too.' This would be a most practical meditation for the time spent going to the office. On the Wednesday in Holy Week the meditation is on the reed placed in our Lord's hands. The blows from the reed are thought of as reparation for the mockery that men and women today make of marriage: sins such as divorce, abortion, desertion, birth control. These meditations are for all and they carry the reader to the foot of the cross to learn how God's love can be applied to everyday life.

K. J. BARTLETT

THE INNER SEARCH. By Hubert van Zeller. (Sheed and Ward; 15s.)

This is essentially a book for those who have set their wills into the way of perfection. Written, in the first place, perhaps, for the traditional religious, its direction could well be used for people in search of perfection in the world, say in a Secular Institute, where novitiates could receive a stimulus in the way the old 'trade routes'