

the inclination or the capacity to study patristic doctrine as presented in theological and controversial treatises, are likely to have sufficient Latin to be able to consult at least the Western Fathers in the original. But this is not the case with the far greater number of people who could enjoy and profit from the reading of patristic sermons. Such a volume as this can be a pedagogue to lead Catholics back to an appreciation of the Scriptures; it can enable those (surely the majority) for whom the technical, arid, catechism statements of doctrine mean very little, to take in and savour the same doctrine put in language more biblical, more vivid, and more humane. Perhaps—who knows?—even the manualists and compilers of catechisms themselves may be induced by such publications gradually to water their deserts with a little more heavenly dew. Finally, in this and kindred volumes both priests and people have a standing reminder of what a sermon can and should be.

The translation is competent but uninspired, and it would read rather more smoothly if only it had not been so closely tied to the Latin build-up of the sentences, which gives the English an uncongenial rigidity.

E.H.

INDUSTRIALISM AND THE POPES. By Mary Lois Eberdt, C.H.M., and Gerald Schnepf, S.M. (P. J. Kenedy and Sons, New York; \$3.50.)

In Catholic social teaching the principle of subsidiary function applied to industry has meant the elaboration of the idea of the vocational group. This central point in the Christian programme of industrial reform was set forth in detail by Pope Pius XI in the encyclical *Quadragesimo anno*, and has been taken up widely in the U.S.A. under the name of the Industry Council Plan. A number of Trade Union and business leaders there have gone on record as supporting this idea, as have various organisations concerned with industrial peace. An Industry Council is a public body, composed of elected representatives of management and labour. Guided, but not dictated to, by government officials who are attached to it, it has power to fix wages, hours, working conditions, and prices for the industry concerned—and even, along with similar bodies from other industries, to regulate to some degree the entire economy of the nation.

It was a happy thought of Brother Schnepf and Sister Eberdt, both of them active in the field of social thought and work, to assemble all the papal texts which bear on Industry Councils, as well as on other social principles which refer indirectly to them. There is a minimum of commentary, just sufficient to link the exhaustive collection of texts. This is a job well done, and for some time to come will no doubt be the definitive collection of such material.

J.F.