

taken—as indeed it has been—to inculcate the suppression of all intellectual activity and so to induce a kind of Quietist *nirvana*. 'To think of Nothing' may be an aspect of the Prayer of Quiet when the soul quietens the discursive reasoning of the mind, but according to St Teresa the soul may never *suppress* an intellectual activity. Fr Gabriel shows how St John of the Cross insisted that to practise contemplation the soul must go out to meet God, until the time comes when she seems to be doing nothing, thinking nothing except for some uncontrollable meanderings of the imagination, but remaining simply and quietly in the presence of God. Finally he returns to his point in justifying St John of the Cross as the 'Doctor of Active Contemplation'.

This is indeed a book of practical guidance in the life of prayer and in the reading of the mystics, invaluable to director and penitent alike.

CONRAD PEPLER, O.P.

THE PRIEST'S GUIDE IN HOLY WEEK. By Arthur Proudman. (Burns Oates; 1s. 6d.)

Terse, brief and complete, this synopsis of the ceremonies and sacristy work for Holy Week is the sort of thing many a parish priest has longed for, perhaps even attempted himself but left unfinished. Each day dealt with, Palm Sunday and the last three days of Holy Week, begins with a brief conspectus of the ceremony (indispensable in instructing servers), continues with an account of the preparations necessary, and concludes with a synopsis of the ceremonies from the celebrant's point of view. So far as we are able to judge, Fr Proudman has attained a high degree of accuracy and any omissions are not essential. For example, he says the celebrant should face east in the baptistry; Fortescue adds, wisely, 'if possible'. Alas, it often is not. The book, which includes all the Latin texts said by the priest when away from the Missal, is gratifyingly free from misprints ('prophesies' on p. 38 should be 'prophecies'), is clearly printed, and apart from the curling paper cover, pleasant to handle. In a second edition, which is bound to follow, one or two phrases might be re-worded, e.g., 'spread with white cloth' (p. 39) and '(incense) is imposed' (p. 13)—shades of Dale-Baldeschi!

The clergy owe a debt of gratitude to Fr Proudman for giving us the fruits of his experience in so useful a form, and it is to be hoped it will be a powerful aid in conveying to the laity something of the *mysterium tremendum* that is enshrined in our Holy Week ceremonies.

J. D. CRICHTON

EVE AND THE GRYPHON. By Gerald Vann, O.P. (Blackfriars Publications; 6s.)

I have read this small book twice. In between readings, I came across this description of one of the New Testament Epistles: 'a pattern is worked which for richness of meaning, harmony of design, and depth and variety of colour, has few parallels. The effect is like