

## REVIEWS

ruthless reasoning of any intelligent boy of ten years old. It cannot be excused on the plea of economy of space or words—no argument may be falsified for lack of space: and in any case room is found in the last chapter for discussion of minor details of Death, Judgement, Hell and Heaven much less certain than the great dogmas of faith which are denuded of half their reasonableness.

Finally non-Catholics are patronized, and this irritates. They are unfortunate people whose intellectual powers are to be pitied for following false doctrines: at the same time the reasons for Papal Supremacy are so clear that "it is difficult to understand how Protestants fail to see it"!

At the best this book, for 2s. 6d., gives, with a few unsatisfactory explanations, part of what the Catechism gives for 2d.—or is it 1d.?

GERARD MEATH, O.P.

I GIVE GLORY. A Book for the Sick. By the Abbé Henri Perreyve. Translated by M. G. Chadwick. (Sands; 3s. 6d.)

In spite of its somewhat obscure title, taken presumably from Ps. civ., 7, this book for the sick is a resumé of reflections by an author, who himself, as a young priest, had the misfortune to go through a long, tedious illness from which, however, he gradually recovered.

There are some thirty short readings on the spiritual life as led in such circumstances, applicable only to an invalid living at home or in a private nursing home conducted by members of religious congregations. The pressure of general routine in a public hospital and its whole *milieu* would hardly lend themselves to reflections of this kind. For its limited purpose, therefore, this book is admirably adapted, though naturally enough it contains little or nothing suitable to an invalid whose illness is likely to terminate fatally. The chapters are indeed very varied, some very short, and take the reader through all the phases of a long and tedious illness. They are also exceedingly practical, e.g., *On Waking Up in the Morning* to begin another day. The longest chapter is *Mass from a Sick Bed*, by which one can accompany the Holy Sacrifice spiritually in one's own room, when able to do so, and thus gain much consolation and merit. *Our Own Room* provides much thought on the apparent loneliness and seclusion, as can be expected in the case of one who must be so much alone. Then we have chapters on the attitude of the sick person towards *The Priest*, *The Doctor* and even to *Medicine*. *On Reading* the author remarks very wisely: "I should like you to read amusing books," and we may add interesting books. "They help to chase away sadness and

weariness," they raise your spirits and tend to make your courage a gay virtue.

Admirable, too, is the advice on *Visits from Friends*, whose calling at certain hours may not be convenient. But we think that the most suggestive thoughts will be found in readings devoted to *Solitude* and *Night* with all their weary long-drawn-out hours of endurance, because these subjects are so truly recognized and feared by all invalids. The chapters on *Prayers on Convalescence* and *Life once more*, when return to health is yet more speedy, give cheerful words of encouragement in God's service.

It is sufficient, where all is so good, to have mentioned the trend of a few thoughts for those to whom the book should prove a rich storehouse from which to draw on the slow journey towards recovery from a serious illness. The translation is well done and runs as easily as if the original were written in our own language.

JOHN DOMINIC ROUSSELLE, O.P.

THE OXFORD GROUPS. By Maisie Ward. (Sheed & Ward; 1s.)

Of all the requirements for winning others to the Truth, the first are sympathy and understanding. Without them controversy is useless; with them controversy may often be dispensed with. This booklet, coming from one so well versed in Catholic Evidence, who has also attended Group meetings, is far removed from mere controversy: generous, it seeks to recognise to the full the good where it exists, and so lays more certain finger on shortcomings. This apostolic spirit is to be commended, for it is the touch that heals.

The writer does not intend to give the history of the movement, but simply an evaluation, based on her own personal observations. She sees in the Group both a challenge and an opportunity for Catholics: a challenge, in that "with a very imperfect equipment, it is doing at the moment for large numbers of people what we ourselves ought to be doing"; an opportunity, in that the acceptance of sincere belief in God's guidance and the continuous attempt to put it into practice should lead many from imperfect truth to the fullness and perfection of Catholicism. The writer's impression however, that most, both of the leaders and the rank and file, have open minds towards the Church, is perhaps unduly optimistic. One member who announced his intention of becoming a Catholic was informed by Dr. Buchan that "it was all most unguided."

The book is a stimulating one, if only it makes us say with the writer: "What are we doing, who have the full stream of Catholic life and Catholic light, to distribute these waters over a thirsty world?"

PETER WHITESTONE, O.P.