

## BLACKFRIARS

Here as elsewhere the author's cavalier treatment of post-Cartesian thought invites criticism on the ground not only of policy but of truth—the more so here as he himself well expresses the ambition of the Thomist to ' assimilate what is true ' in other systems (p. 19); his tendency also to introduce an occasional religio-lyric passage is here not at its happiest. One should not, of course, expect great thoroughness or profundity in these lectures to students: their value lies in the fact that they present the reader with an introductory glance at the central themes of the Thomist synthesis in a manner and style (there is an attempt to translate scholastic terms into modern language) which frees them from the sepulchral rigidity of the scholastic text-book and makes them actual.

GERALD VANN, O.P.

INTRODUCTION A L'ONTOLOGIE DU CONNAITRE. By Yves Simon.  
Bibliothèque Française de Philosophie, troisième série.  
(Desclée, Paris; fr. 20.)

A penetrating study of the Thomist theory of knowledge, following in particular John of St. Thomas. The intention is not controversial, but expository; the criteriological problem, though it cannot be wholly excluded, is not primarily envisaged: the nature of knowing, of the idea, of immanent activity, are the main points discussed. Danger of the appearance of mere ipsedixitism is avoided by the tactic of relegating all quotations from St. Thomas and his commentators to footnotes; this makes too for smooth and uninterrupted argument.

The author has used throughout the language of the schools, it is therefore to the student of Thomism who, acquainted with the terms of the problem, desires a clear treatment of it that the book will be most readily useful.

Footnote citations are extremely thorough: Aristotle and his commentators, Thomist philosophers ancient and modern, thinkers of other schools.

A valuable passage on the crucial question of *esse intentionale*—which enables the Thomist to avoid both idealism and the copy-theory—might have been with advantage more detailed.

GERALD VANN, O.P.