

## BLACKFRIARS

THE KINGSHIP OF CHRIST. By Dr. Tihamer Toth. (Coldwell; 6s.)

THE GOOD MASTER. By Dr. I. Klug. (Coldwell; 4s.)

VERS LE PERE. By Emile Guerry. (Desclée de Brouwer; 18 frs.)

These three books of sermons and meditations represent three stages in the spiritual life. The first, *The Kingship of Christ*, provides the moral urge for the first conversion and entrance into the Kingdom of Christ. The book is noteworthy for its vigour of expression and its many exclamation marks; and although in some examples rather limited to the time and place of delivery, the sermons make a strong call, more particularly to those already within the fold, to shake off their apathy and to become living, active members of the Kingdom. Mere existence within the realm does not suffice; a vital co-operation with the King Himself must be practised with a view to making "Thy Kingdom come." Thus it is evident that many in the Church to-day have need of conversion. Having then turned to Christ in spirit the growing Christian must learn of the "Good Master," and the second book may here play its part, for it turns the reader's eyes on the Master in the example of His earthly life and applies his virtues to modern conditions. The Christian becomes more Christlike in his behaviour, showing in his life the marks of a true disciple in his mirroring of his Master's life and teaching. Finally the central idea of the Incarnation is brought home to him, and he is led from the contemplation of the *man* Christ to that of the Second Person of the Trinity, thus learning to adore the Father in spirit and truth. The French volume, *Vers le Père*, may be of great assistance in this final step to the contemplation of the Trinity. As the author points out, devotion to God the Father may easily be overlooked in a sometimes rather selfish concentration on the humanity of our Lord. Yet to go through Christ to the Father in no way implies that we leave the divine Son, both God and man, behind us; indeed it is only by identifying ourselves with Him that we can claim adoptive sonship and thus call the First Person of the Trinity "Our Father." A truly Christocentric devotion will naturally lead "towards the Father," and this excellent book is largely taken up with considerations of Jesus the Son, and of the Holy Spirit by whom we cry "Abba, Father."

In their production the two English books do credit to the publisher, their only blemish being that they were not originally written in English.

CONRAD PEPLER, O.P.