

retreat. Fr Vincent sums up the point and purpose of such retreats when he says (page 117): 'Members of the Catholic Evidence Guild who speak at street corners expect more fruit from spending three days in retreat at the Cenacle than from three years speaking in the open, because they would be getting into the proper frame of mind to deal with people's difficulties'.

In these pages we find Fr Vincent in a particular vein. To those who remember him they will be specially precious and bring back the familiar voice, the smile and the unforgettable presence. They bear the rare touch of Fr Vincent's originality and genius. B.D.

MEISTER ECKHART SPEAKS. Edited and introduced by Otto Karrer. Translated from the German by Elizabeth Strakosch. (Blackfriars Publications; 6s.)

Master Eckhart has become very fashionable, several books having lately been published in this country about the enigmatic German Dominican. The present small and unpretentious volume is designed to introduce the Master to a wider public. Its editor is one of the most important scholars to have saved Eckhart's reputation from the hands of his enemies who decried him as an heretic, as well as from those of misguided admirers such as the German romantics who hailed him as one of their fellow-pantheists. In his introduction Karrer defends Eckhart's complete orthodoxy, which, however, is still somewhat doubtful, even if the greatest possible allowance be made for 'mystical licence'. In the present selection his more controversial speculations are left out and prominence is given to the practical side of his spirituality, which is very sound. In this he insists mainly on the necessity of complete detachment and perfect abandonment to God's will. It can therefore be said to be typical only of one aspect of his thought. Unfortunately the book is marred by a very indifferent translation which, in the Introduction, is often so literal as to be almost unintelligible, and in the extracts from Eckhart's works fails to convey the flavour of the medieval German. Incidentally, it is strange that a Dominican should be referred to as a 'monk' (p. 5) in a Blackfriars publication. H.C.G.

THE THEORY AND PRACTICE OF COMMUNISM. [By R. N. Carew Hunt. (Bles; 18s.)

This is the fifth edition of a work which appeared first in 1950. It has been revised, somewhat enlarged generally, and brought up to date with a chapter on the post-Stalinist situation which discusses events up to the 20th Russian Party Congress of February 1956. As one of the clearest and most temperate examinations of Communism it can be warmly recommended. A.R.