

COMMUNISM QUESTIONED AND ANSWERED. By R. M. Dowdall, O.P. (Irish Rosary, Dublin; 1s. 6d.)

Pius XI said ' Catholic Action must organize propoganda on a large scale to disseminate knowledge of the fundamental principles on which a Christian Social Order must build.' The criticism of false views has run into many volumes. Books on Communism by Catholics have been numerous of recent years, and we are perhaps justified in questioning the ultimate value of this welter of critical literature. Analysis of false philosophy or false social principles is so often merely negative; there is a great need for an increase of positive, constructive works on Catholic social teaching, more application to the task of working out practical policies which shall be ' ethically allowable ' and well founded on the immutable principles of living laid down in the Encyclicals on the social order. We want more books on Distributism, the Guild organization of industry, the Corporative State and similar subjects of immediate and positive importance, works which will prepare the ground for *reconstruction*.

In the form of question and answer this book considers the various factors of political Communism and refutes them one by one with the moral and social teaching of the Church. The ' catechism ' form is inclined to render the book somewhat unreadable, but no doubt this method of presentation will prove useful in Social Study Guilds where immediate reference to a particular point is often desirable. The book is well referenced on both sides; quotations are taken from Communist writers, from St. Thomas, from the Encyclicals and from modern authors. It is rather disappointing to find only nine pages given to the consideration of the reform of the social order on the lines of Vocational Groups suggested in *Quadragesimo Anno* and to the possibility of the organization of industry on the Guild system. We do not get much further by merely criticising industrial capitalism or deploring all the evils of proletarianism. Our real movement will begin when we put forth a programme for the reconstruction of society based upon a vocational basis and upon the restoration of the organic community as the secondary unit of the true state.

BERT WATTS.