

however, that this is a causal relationship is, in spite of liberal documentation, unlikely to command widespread agreement. 'It was the development of situations and subjects employed in painting', he writes, '... which influenced subsequent literary evolution.' However true this may be of Hogarth and Fielding, it is plainly unsatisfactory as a generalization, emphasized as it is later by the statement that Dutch painting 'initiated democratic art.'

Central to his thesis is the word *Biedermeier*, which he uses as the European equivalent of 'Victorian'. It is 'both a style and a conception of the world, of a small world of good sense and good manners, domestic pleasures and the cult of a gentle, well-groomed nature, subservience to sane principles, minute love of the concrete, with, from time to time, a few flights on the wings of a mild and perhaps slightly melancholy dream.'

This he finds dominant in the writers of 'the bourgeois century' where it is seen primarily in their hero figures, characterized by bourgeois morality, who have replaced the Byronic *homme fatal*. But the eclipse of the Romantic protagonist, who has never been significant in English fiction, does not take us very far. It is true that the nineteenth-century heroes are bourgeois (has it ever been doubted?), but at their best they are, for the first time, heroes, centres of conflict. Professor Praz, in a curiously paradoxical comment on George Eliot, recognizes this emergence of the modern hero: 'Disillusioned observation of life as it really was, led to the eclipse of the hero and the disclosure of man's swarming interior world, made up of disparate and contradictory things.' It was in this very revelation that the true fictional hero appeared.

What we seek, however, is not the book which demands assent but that which stimulates to reflection and reconsideration. This is the kind of work Professor Praz has given us. His starting point is novel, his discussion relevant, and consequently he serves us with the mild shock we need to dispute; to engage, in Mr Eliot's phrase, in the common pursuit of true judgment.

JAMES REED

NOTICES

MAN OF FIRE, by Malachy Gerard Carroll (Mercier Press, 12s. 6d.), is a life of Emmanuel d'Alzon, the founder of the Augustinians of the Assumption and of the Oblates of the Assumption. The story of his early life is well told with its interesting glimpses into his aristocratic family background and association with the intellectual movement of the eighteen-twenties in France, dominated as that was by the figure

of Lammenais. Later, however, the personal history of d'Alzon tends to be obscured by the account of the rise of the Oblates. This is a pity, since Mr Carroll has shown in the first part of his book that the life of this Founder thoroughly deserves being told for its own sake.

THE ESTRANGED FACE, by Catherine Eastwood (Hollis and Carter, 16s.), is yet another account of a nun who sought and obtained a dispensation from her vows. The chief merit of this book compared with others on the same theme is that it is completely lacking in any even subconscious tendency to take the ex-Sister's 'part' against the Order and convents to which she once belonged. So much is this the case, that one suspects that Clare has not been so very well served by her biographer who also adopts a rather patronizing attitude towards her subject. As is evident from page seventy-six much of Clare's history has been withheld from the author, so that the latter's failure to give a convincing account of this story is not so surprising.

THE POPES, by Zsolt Aradi (Macmillan, 25s.), is an absorbing reference book. It outlines the history of the papacy, discusses in minute detail what happens *sede vacante*, the arrangements for a successor and his coronation. There is also a Who's Who of the College of Cardinals, much useful information about the Vatican and some unusual photographs.

rites for BAPTISM, THE RITE FOR MARRIAGE AND THE NUPTIAL MASS, THE LAST RITES FOR THE SICK AND DYING, and THE RITE FOR CHRISTIAN BURIAL AND THE FUNERAL MASS (The Liturgical Press, 10 cents each), are beautifully printed and produced pocket-size booklets for the use of the laity on the occasions indicated by the titles, and contain the new vernacular ritual approved by the hierarchy of the United States. These pamphlets are a remarkable witness to the advance of the liturgical movement in North America, and to the leading part played in that by the Benedictines of St John's Abbey of Collegeville, Minnesota.

The second edition of the SUMMA THEOLOGICA brought out by the Commissio Piana of the Institute of Medieval Studies at Ottawa has now reached the third volume (and the end of the Secunda-Secundae). Those who began their study of the text of St Thomas during the recent war or in the years that immediately followed, will always speak with gratitude and affection of the 'Canadian Summa', since it was at that time the only manual edition available. Even today when there are rivals in the field, this remains the best, in so far as the Leonine text is indicated in special footnotes, and the text itself is printed as St Thomas wrote it and without any irritating system of underlinings

to indicate what a modern editor thinks are the chief points in each article. Occasion has been taken in this second edition of revising the text and notes, and of strengthening the binding which retains, however, its familiar elegant dark-blue appearance.

MYSTÈRES CHRÉTIENS ET ACTION JOCISTE. (Tome I: Advent—Epiphanie. Tome II: Paques—Pentecôte), by M. Bouchet, M.-J. Mossand, G. Quinet, and M. Zinty (Les Editions Ouvrières, 510 fr. each volume), might well be described as the Acts of the Apostles as lived by young members of the J.O.C. They recount examples of the living witness of a missionary Church in the world of work relating it to the liturgical seasons. An unusual formula which is employed with great success by allowing the young apostles to speak for themselves.

DES PRÊTRES POUR LA JEUNESSE OUVRIÈRE, by René Guerre and Maurice Zinty (Les Editions Ouvrières, 270 fr.), is written by two *Jociste* chaplains for the benefit of all priests who are concerned with the care of souls. They describe a spirit and means of evangelization that has been tried and found to be successful, and stress the importance of the priest's work as an educator. The framework of the book is that of the normal *Jociste* enquiry: See, Judge, Act. After describing the plight of many young workers, 'harried and abject, like sheep that have no shepherd', they go on to consider the necessity of bringing Christ to them and conclude with a discussion of the role of the Y.C.W. Chaplain. Also from the Editions Ouvrières, come a series of **PRIÈRES MARIALES** (345 fr.) by Joseph Spicht, and **QUAND LES OUVRIERS PRIENT** (480 fr.), by Paul Barrau, a very useful little book, half-documentary, half-advisory, on the prayer life of French laymen.

Father Michael Day, to whom we are already indebted for a recent version of the autobiography of St Thérèse of Lisieux, has now given us an excellent translation, in the Orchard Series, of the **INTRODUCTION TO THE DEVOUT LIFE** (Burns, Oates, 12s. 6d.). It is remarkable how none of the inimitable charm of style of St Francis de Sales is lost in this brisk and workmanlike contemporary English dress, and it is to be hoped that by means of it this sane and cheerful spiritual classic will find many new readers.

Henry Suso is one of the most attractive of the early Dominicans, and in her translation of his **LETTERS** (Blackfriars Publications, 4s.), Miss Kathleen Goldmann allows the full impact of this tremendous and irresistible personality to reach us in all its freshness and charm. These vivid little letters to nuns range far and wide, but for all the depth of

spiritual doctrine they contain, their author never loses the preacher's eye for the details of everyday life. Even a puppy playing in the cloister of the priory (page 46) is snapped up by Blessed Henry to serve as an amusing and telling variation on the familiar 'spiritual door-mat' theme.

THE LAST WEEK (Blackfriars Publications, 4s. 6d.) consists of a series of meditations for Holy Week. The author, a Dominican Tertiary, especially had in mind those unable for some reason or other to follow the full liturgy of Holy Week; but clearly this little book will also be of use throughout the year for meditations on the Passion.

MEDITATIONS ON THE LIFE OF OUR LORD, by J. Nouet, S.J. (Browne and Nolan, 18s.), **THINK AND PRAY**, by Joseph McSorley (Longmans, 9s. 6d.), **MEDITATIONS OF A BELIEVER**, by Marcel Légaut (Eyre and Spottiswoode, 15s.), and **PRAYING OUR PRAYERS**, by H. P. C. Lyons, S.J. (Longmans, 6s. 6d.), are four aids to prayer which display an interesting variety of form. P. Nouet's meditations for every day in the year were an extremely popular and typical product of the nineteenth century. The present edition is a revision and abridgment of the original two volumes in an attempt 'to meet the needs of the present generation', but retains the standard three-point hortatory form of the original. This book remains mainly a preparation for prayer and rarely crosses the threshold into prayer itself. The other three authors venture further into the interior. M. Légaut is a layman who once held the chair of Mechanics at the University of Rennes, but has now retired to live a solitary life in a pastoral setting. His meditations are concerned with themes from the Gospel and are written in a remarkably intimate style which frequently breaks out into the actual language of prayer. In Fr McSorley's book, a reprint of an original American edition of 1936, the preparatory 'meditation' form disappears altogether, and we have a series of personal prayers on certain major mysteries of the Faith. Fr Lyon's book, too, consists of a series of prayers based on the *Pater, Ave, Salve Regina* and the *Anima Christi*, but it is he who of all our four writers best conveys the spirit of prayer itself, and does so with an astonishing economy and simplicity of language.

YOUR PASSPORT TO HEAVEN, by Wilfrid Diamond (The World's Work, 7s. 6d.), an American layman, tells in a conversational way how sanctity is within the grasp of Everyman by means of his staple religious diet of daily prayer and the Mass. Bishop Wand's **SEVEN STEPS TO HEAVEN** (Longmans, paper 3s., cased 5s.) is a succinct account of the traditional doctrine of spiritual development; while Mgr Vernon Johnson's **SPIRITUAL CHILDHOOD** (Sheed and Ward, 6s.) is a cheap reprint of a book, first published three years ago, which contains the

ripened fruit of its author's long meditation on the doctrine and significance of St Thérèse of Lisieux. *HIS HEART IN OUR WORK* (Browne and Nolan) is a selection made by Françoise L. Filas, S.J., of somewhat short studies from *Alter Christus*, a periodical published between 1937 and 1950 as the American quarterly bulletin of the League of Sacerdotal Sanctity. *LISTEN, SISTER*, by John Moffat, S.J. (Mercier Press, 10s. 6d.), consists of a series of thoughts for nuns which go slightly deeper than the dreadful smartness of the title would suggest.

Père F. D. Joret, O.P., has for long been known in English only for his excellent account written for Tertiaries of the Dominican way of life. But his remarkable power of conveying deep theological and spiritual truths to the layman was also manifested in several other books well-known in France. In *AN INTRODUCTION TO CONTEMPLATIVE MEDITATION* (3s. 6d.) and *THE EUCHARIST AND THE CONFESSIONAL* (12s. 6d.), Blackfriars Publications have made two further examples of his work available for English readers. The book on the two recurrent sacraments of our ordinary Christian life deals mainly with their reception and their fruits, but is prefaced by some useful and illuminating pages on the general theology of the sacraments. The other book is a much smaller work on recollection, based on the teaching of the first few questions of the *Prima Pars*, and shows with great skill how the fundamental theological truths about God and his presence in us can feed our prayer life.

It is difficult to believe that we in this country managed to exist without Penguin Books for so long, when we begin to consider how deeply indebted to them English readers now are. *THE ORIGIN OF THE EARTH* (2s. 6d.) is another example of an authoritative work, already successful in a more expensive edition, and now available to Everyman for less than the price of twenty cigarettes. The author is Professor of Astronomy at Glasgow University, and combines learning and readability in this survey of the present state of knowledge about the nature of our planet. And *TACITUS ON IMPERIAL ROME* (5s.) is a notable addition to the Penguin Classics. This brilliant new translation of that fascinating and trenchant classic, the *Annals*, is made by Professor Michael Grant. The book also contains, apart from an introduction by the translator, a notably full and useful section of auxiliary material including a list of technical terms and ten maps.