

Book Reviews

will find eminently practical and useful information, which they can easily handle and apply. In cases where there may be doubt as to the precise meaning of the law, the difficulty is not passed over, but sound arguments are always given to substantiate the conclusion which has been arrived at.

The handiness of the book is enhanced by a very satisfactory alphabetical index, and also it is a distinct advantage to be given in appendices selected cases and formulae, corresponding with each title, together with resolutions of the Sacred Congregation of the Council.

A.F.

JUDGMENT ON BIRTH-CONTROL. By R. de Guchteneere, M.D. (Sheed & Ward; pp. 223; 6/- net).

This is a translation, with additions, of Dr. de Guchteneere's work, *La Limitation des Naissances*. Messrs. Sheed and Ward have been well advised to offer the English public this excellent translation, if only to show the output of sound anti-neo-malthusian literature. Fortunately in this matter of necessary literature the Catholic output shows no signs of birth-restriction.

The publishers are justified in recommending their well-documented translation as 'an up-to-date survey' of the matter in question. Whilst such books are to be had for the buying, it is astounding that birth-prevention can be looked upon as a social device with any show of support from sound sociology, psychology, or ethics.

V.McN.

A SIMPLE METHOD OF RAISING THE SOUL TO CONTEMPLATION.

By François Malaval. Translated by Lucy Menzies. With an Introduction by Evelyn Underhill. (J. M. Dent & Sons; 7/6 net.)

This is the first English translation of a guide to contemplation written by a devout gentleman of Marseilles, who being blind almost from birth devoted a long life (1627-1719) to study, prayer and spiritual direction. He published his *Pratique facile pour élever l'âme à contemplation* in 1664-9. It appeared with all due ecclesiastical approbation and with a dedication to Cardinal Bona, who was the author's special friend. But, in April 1688, an Italian version of the book was put on the *Index Librorum Prohibitorum*, and there the book has remained to this day. The present English version, therefore, is not produced under Catholic auspices and cannot expect to have a great sale among Catholic readers.

Blackfriars

To examine the book again and to determine whether it deserved inclusion in the Index will seem to be both presumptuous and otiose. Miss Underhill argues that it was condemned for no fault of its own, but for the errors of contemporary quietism. That is a very plausible contention, and yet we think the author's teaching very open to misunderstanding and abuse. Nor do we like his manner, which is cocksure to a degree. The book deserved condemnation when quietistic errors were rife, and it may still delude the uninstructed.

J.M.

THE ESSENCE OF A CATHOLIC. (Burns, Oates & Washbourne, Ltd. ; 2/6.)

This small book—with its rather dull title—is a valuable one; a valuable antiseptic against the kind of piety that is little more than a mood of self-expression. It is also a tonic and aperitif to those who believe that Catholicism excuses them from all intellectual pioneering. Youth will appreciate these essays, delivered to students at Heidelberg and now well translated from the German. Older people will find it worth buying and keeping because it speaks so eloquently of the eternal youth attained by those whose lives are grafted on to the Eternal. Philosophic as it is, it is never heavy; and for all its enthusiasm, it is never emotional. An excellent brevity makes it a useful book to lend to non-Catholics.

C.H.

NEWMAN'S APOLOGIA PRO VITA SUA. The two versions of 1864 and 1865. Preceded by Newman's and Kingsley's Pamphlets. With an introduction by Wilfrid Ward. (Oxford University Press. London: Humphrey Milford, 1931. Pp. xxxi, 528; 7/6.)

A second impression of *Kingsley versus Newman, the full text*, an omnibus first issued in 1913. Many will like to possess this edition with its reduced facsimile reproductions of the original title pages and the Apologia in all its early vigour. 'Away with you, Mr. Kingsley, and fly into space.'

N.W.T.G.