

THE LORD IS MY JOY. By Paul de Jaeger, S.J. (Burns Oates; 7s. 6d.)

This is one of those excellent books which may be opened at the beginning, in the middle or at the end and read for three, five, ten or eighty minutes with profit. It will prove useful to the religious who is in need of a little stimulating at the beginning or in the middle of his meditation. Indeed the book is better read in short stages, since while each paragraph contains much that is worth pondering, the style of the original is rather too lyrical for English prose and in large doses is a little overwhelming. From interior evidence the book seems intended for religious who take the contemplative life seriously and some of the phraseology used presupposes technical knowledge of the Science of Prayer. Nevertheless this does not prevent the reading of the greater part of the book from being profitable to the rest of Christendom. The author says many things which all should think well on.

R. BLUNDELL, S.J.

LITTLE CATECHISM OF THE ACT OF OBLATION OF ST THERESE OF THE CHILD JESUS. Translated by Rev. Michael Collins, A.M. (Gill and Sons; 1s.)

On Trinity Sunday 1895 St Thérèse made her Act of Oblation to the Merciful Love of the good God. This prayer and sacrifice came as the epitome and consummation of her whole life. The rest of her life, every heart-beat, was to renew this oblation, to seal it everlastingly. It expresses her *raison d'être* as she conceived it. It is her whole life in a few words.

Many of her followers therefore have asked for further information on this 'Act'. And it is to meet these inquiries that the Carmelites of Lisieux have drawn up 31 questions and answers, phrased as far as possible in the Saint's own words. It is a profound and wonderfully tender document for its size. The facsimile of the original is an added attraction.

ADRIAN DOWLING, O.P.

THE WORDS OF THE MASS. By R. Butler, S.J. (Clonmore and Reynolds; 7s. 6d.)

The modern craze for pleasing 'the man in the street' has for the most part produced books unquestionably simple and unbelievably dull. This book is unquestionably simple, but it is also lively. As the title indicates it is a detailed explanation and commentary on the Ordinary and Canon of the Mass. The psalms are illustrated through their Old Testament context and the other prayers are frequently linked up with both Our Lord's life and our daily lives. This book has an honesty which makes it more commendable than most of its type.

G.A.M.