

EXTRACTS

ANOTHER SPIRITUAL REVIEW from America is a sign of the times, for its purpose is contemplative, which reminds of the great contemplative movement that is gathering momentum in the States. Its name is *Spiritual Life* and it is edited like so many other reviews of this nature by Carmelites—a quarterly published by Bruce of Milwaukee. Some of the aims and ideals of *Spiritual Life* read rather naively, but we quote from the prospectus confident that people will know how to read between the lines:

Its purpose will be to reach or form a 'spiritual élite' (élite does not mean an esoteric class, but rather all those who are willing to make a colossal effort to lead vigorous Catholic lives). . . .

Spiritual Life has a new scope, a scope that goes beyond the ordinary pre-occupation of writing in this country; a scope that embraces far more than enticements to religion or to threshold activities of the Church. Here is a review concerned with the deepest and most pressing verities of life. Here is a map of life formed out of writing that is clear, vital and precise, written against the background of Theology, Philosophy, Psychology and the rich tradition of Carmel.

A summation of objectives is as follows:

1. To stimulate thought.
2. To 'think' the world.
3. To 'make' contemplatives.
4. To transmit our heritage (Teresian spirituality).
5. To provide spiritual direction for an élite, for leaders and for all who desire to intensify their spiritual lives.

We wish our new sister every success, and it will be interesting to be taught how to 'think' the world.

ANOTHER REVIEW, this time non-Catholic, intended for the lay Christian and hitherto obtained by direct subscription, is now planning 'a nation-wide coverage'. *The Layman*—'Linking Christianity with Citizenship', edited by Patrick Hamilton and published from 35 Spring Gardens, London, S.W.1 (1s. 6d. a month), claims to be 'inter-denominational, non-sectarian and non-profit making, with no special axes to grind'. Its June number stars Billy Graham, publishing his six short broadcasts in the 'Life Up Your Hearts' series. Another broadcast talk on 'Christians in a Divided World' about Africa is also published, showing how Christianity can dispel fear which is a principal cause of political and social divisions.

That lesson has been finely taught us by the Kikuyu Christians. You may perhaps have heard of the message of one of them sent to Christians here who were praying for them. 'Don't pray that we

may be kept safe; pray that we may be kept faithful.' These Kikuyu Christians, martyrs many of them, are of the same people as the Mau Mau who murder them, so you can't indict a people. . . . It's of the essence of Christianity to react against fear and against selfishness. And Christians can do a tremendous lot if they can adopt the motto which Jan Hofmeyr, the greatest South African leader, commended to his fellow countrymen: 'Resist the pressure of fear; hold fast to the profession of your faith, without wavering'.

It will be seen that the tone of this review is Evangelical—little doctrine with great moral urge; but it will encourage many to be better Christians.

Just Published

FATHER VINCENT McNABB, O.P.

Portrait of a Great Dominican

by FERDINAND VALENTINE, O.P.

*With a Foreword by Very Rev. HILARY CARPENTER, O.P.,
Provincial of the English Dominicans*

'As the author rightly observes, this is not an official biography; strictly speaking it is not a biography at all. It is an attempt on the part of one of his brethren who knew him well to explain the enigma that Father Vincent McNabb remains to many, even amongst his most ardent admirers. . . . I welcome this memoir, therefore, above all for its complete sincerity, for the clear and vivid portrait that gradually emerges of a very great Dominican, a friar preacher rightly admired, loved and venerated, who by the hard way of personal discipline, . . . and by a ceaseless apostolate of Truth, followed Our Lord whom he so deeply loved, along the Way of the Cross, even to Calvary. . . .'—*From the Foreword.* 21s.

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