

characters seemed tame and provincial compared with those of Sartre; but one might say that though they are, of course, pre-war in conception, they have come into their own again in the nuclear

age because they show the personal triumph over despair by a renewal of hope, strength and fresh vision.

*Elisabeth Stopp*

BEARING WITNESS TO CHRIST by Jean Fletcher. *Geoffrey Chapman, 16s.*

Mother Fletcher provides us in this guide to the catechist with an up to date synthesis of what the experts are saying. She is at her best when she is writing freely and from her own experience, less good when she is giving us a catena of quotations from her sources. Her book may be expected to contribute to the raising of standards in the teaching of religion which is already taking place, but inevitably one finds points of disagreement. I cannot, for example, think it wise to put off the child who asks: 'where do babies come from?' on the grounds that the parents are the proper people to give this information. The section on the catechism, also, while reflecting contemporary positions, seems to contain a basic inconsistency. If, as Mother Fletcher says, catechism questions and answers (which should never be given to be memorized under the age of ten) should be the summary of the lesson, it is difficult to see how they can fit in with the programme she

outlines in the next paragraph (p. 55): 'In order to help the child to remember his faith it is necessary to repeat the basic truths of religion frequently, if possible every year, each time taking them from a different approach and at a deeper level'. If even a simplified catechism is used every year – and answers not used frequently will not be retained – it follows inevitably that in most classes the catechism question and answer to be learnt or relearnt will determine the approach of which it is summary, and the lessons will reproduce in the pupil the sense of boredom and staleness which is one of the basic failings of the teaching of religion in the secondary school. So long as the teaching of religion in this way is imposed, there would seem to be no way out of this dilemma, and the author cannot be blamed because she has not found one.

*C. H. Southwood*

THE CATHOLIC VIEWPOINT ON THE LIÈGE TRIAL edited and translated by Malachy G. Carroll. *Mercier Press, Cork, 5s.*

The excitement over the Liège Trial has long subsided but the issues which it raised are still very much alive. It will be surprising if during the life of the present Labour Government we do not see a major tussle over legalizing abortion on all sorts of grounds, and it is important that the Catholic view should be widely understood. The Mercier Press has now given us a curiously untidy paper-back, which oddly enough does not discuss the trial directly. It is composed of papers from the *Cahiers Laënnec* by eminent French doctors and Jesuits, but the quality is disappoint-

ing. An excellent opening paper, rather technical in phraseology, gives an account of the fantastic difficulties experienced by pharmacologists bent on combining safety and efficiency in modern drugs. Even after hundreds of experiments have been performed on various kinds of animals, the effects on the human organism, and more especially the embryo, are hard to foresee. Yet the value of these new medicaments is so great that no sane person would suggest that their production be halted. Father Michel Ray's paper on 'Moral Relexions' makes the good, but neglected,

ST THOMAS AQUINAS

# Summa Theologiæ

The following six volumes were published during 1964:

- Volume 1 *Christian Theology* Thomas Gilby, O.P.  
Volume 2 *Existence and Nature of God* Timothy McDermott, O.P.  
Volume 3 *Knowing and Naming God* Herbert McCabe, O.P.  
Volume 4 *Knowledge in God* Thomas Gornall, S.J.  
Volume 13 *Man Made to God's Image* Edmund Hill, O.P.  
Volume 22 *Dispositions for Human Acts* Anthony Kenny

The following volumes will be published in May:

- Volume 6 *The Trinity* Ceslaus Velecky, O.P.  
Volume 26 *Original Sin* T. C. O'Brien, O.P.  
Volume 39 *Religion and Worship* Kevin D. O'Rourke, O.P.  
Volume 58 *The Eucharistic Presence* William Barden, O.P.

'It is a great enterprise, and both the Dominicans and the Queen's printers are to be congratulated for their faith and courage.'

DAVID KNOWLES, TABLET

**BLACKFRIARS · EYRE & SPOTTISWOODE**

## FAITH AND THE PHILOSOPHERS

EDITED BY JOHN HICK

'... a valuable conspectus of contemporary rationalist attacks on belief in the existence of God and of the reply which can be made by Christian apologists.'—Church Times. 35s.

## THOMAS CRANMER'S DOCTRINE OF THE EUCHARIST

PETER BROOKS

A timely study of the historical development of Cranmer's views on the Eucharist by the senior history master at St. Paul's school. 18s.

**MACMILLAN**

point that there is a special obligation on Catholics for constructive action in solving the problems of the abnormal child whom we have refused to destroy by abortion. He finds the 'negative law, thou shalt not kill' an appeal 'to initiative and to liberty', but unfortunately the initiative necessary to help the mother has not always been shown.

The remaining papers do not score more than a 'near miss': they are too slight or too general to add much to the average layman's knowledge. There is still room for a brief up-to-date book on the subject of abortion on medical grounds based on British conditions.

*Letitia Fairfield*

THE MYSTERY OF MORAL RE-ARMAMENT by Tom Driberg. *Secker & Warburg, 35s.*

Mr Driberg has obviously been exasperated beyond endurance by M.R.A. and all who have been inveigled into attending film shows or star occasions, or who have been stalked by M.R.A.'s photographers, will sympathize with him. So, more seriously, will those who have seen the damage which can be done to fragile personalities by a movement which works mainly through a rather febrile emotionalism. Mr Driberg's exasperation has appeared to some reviewers rather excessive, and as leading to a lack of proportion, especially in his examination of the late Dr Buchman's early career and the first days of the 'Oxford' movement. A student critic has considered him guilty of giving too much attention to a trivial movement, 'using a steamroller to squash a peanut'. There has been a tendency to undervalue his work as a result. He finds so little to say in favour of Moral Rearmament that there is a danger of his assessment being dismissed as too hostile. Should this happen it would be, in the present writer's opinion, most unfortunate. The arguments so often advanced in favour of a

kindly attitude to M.R.A. are based on rather rare instances of its having been a stage in someone's religious development.

In fact there is a considerable case against M.R.A. and it has been presented exhaustively, and with adequate documentation, by Mr Driberg. No amount of attack on his treatment of Dr Buchman's lesser equivocations can lessen the force of such chapters as those in which he discusses M.R.A. and Labour, or its attitude to sex, or its use of advertising. Among the most damning pieces of evidence which he prints is a letter from Mr Beverley Nichols, in the chapter headed 'Personal Encounters', whose moving account of M.R.A. deception triggering off a nervous breakdown will surely touch the memories of more than one reader. This is essential reading for anyone interested in M.R.A. in any of its phases; its main criticisms are not new, but they have never been so forcefully advanced, and they have not been convincingly answered.

*Anthony Ross, O.P.*