

THE OUR FATHER. By R. H. J. Steuart, s.j. (Blackfriars Publications; 2s.)

A paragraph from Fr Steuart's conferences is often enough to keep us going for a week or two. Here we have thirty-six pages of quite irresistible spiritual teaching, practical, real, coming from the heart and going to the heart. But Fr Steuart was not just a devotional preacher. His thoughts were penetrating because they were, so largely, theology in other words: 'piquant' is a tempting adjective to add, if it were less undignified. These conferences, originally published in various issues of *THE LIFE OF THE SPIRIT*, give us Fr Steuart's thoughts on the greatest of prayers and show that our Lord, in teaching us to pray, was teaching us to know and to love God as our Father. The first brief conference, entitled 'Our Father', is indispensable for all who are not yet-convinced that 'Perfect love casteth out fear'.

Father Conrad Pepler's preface introduces us not only to the conferences but also to the mind and heart of Fr Steuart.

G.M.C.

A SAINT OF THE WEEK. By Desmond Murray, O.P. (Blackfriars Publications, 15s.)

Only a Dominican could have written this. Perhaps 'friendly learning' is the nearest phrase to describe the tone and atmosphere: the subject matter itself—lessons of true piety woven round forty-eight brief lives of saints—is presented in a way that ensures gentle effective enlivening of that deep, everyday, 'catechism' holiness to which every soul of man responds. There is nothing like doctrine for setting us off on the great trail, and after doctrine comes learning, and after learning comes emotional atmosphere. All three are best combined, for most people, in simple straightforward talks which give us something to chew on, informative and by preference factual. Father Murray has given us exactly this in these admirable sermon-sketches of forty-eight saints.

G.M.C.

NOTICES

THE FOLLOWING FEET, by 'Ancilla' (Longmans; 8s. 6d.), as may be guessed, is another tale of the Hound of Heaven chasing his prey. This time his prey is a 'good pagan' who received at the age of forty-three one of those strange mystical experiences of 'the timeless moment'—an experience which is always difficult to class as 'natural' or 'super-

natural'. That was in 1934. By 1947 Ancilla was a convinced and ardent Anglican. This is a true account of a progress from agnosticism to Christianity, related with the help of diaries, well and vividly told.

In *THE GOLDEN MAN* (Blackfriars; 7s. 6d.) Fr Anthony Ross, O.P., has adapted some of the best stories of Bl. James of Voragine's *Golden Legend*. 'Legends', as Fr Ross says, 'are not pious nonsense, but attempts to say by means of symbols things which seem to defeat any other means of expression.' The 'thing' here attempted is the picture of 'the ideal Christian' in the stories of ten early saints. The telling of these tales is charmingly done and may be read by children or adults, not merely for their entertainment but, as the author suggests, as a way of listening to a compelling preacher leading his hearers on towards the ideal Christian. The book is delicately illustrated by Mary Taylor.

Readers of *THE LIFE* will need no introduction to John M. Todd's *WE ARE MEN* (Sheed and Ward; 7s. 6d.) as the second chapter, 'Husbands and Wives', was published in its entirety in the January 1955 issue of this journal. It is a book by a layman specifically for laymen. He has the advantage of talking to men of the present age with a sense of experiences shared with them; and he thus avoids the doctrinaire and abstract view of the Christian life. He attempts to bridge the gap between nature and supernature in treating of the problems of the modern Christian. In this way his book is a pioneer one which we hope will lead to more developed treatment on the same lines of the family, work, leisure and religion which make up the four main sections of the book—all regarded as the apostolate.

DAYS OF JOY by William Stephenson, S.J. (Clonmore and Reynolds; 8s. 6d.), consists of a series of meditations on the forty days of Eastertide. There is a great deal of useful matter in the book, but it seems to have neglected most of the renewed and vital understanding of the Paschal Mystery in its liturgical setting.

THE CORPORAL PASSION OF JESUS CHRIST, by Dr Pierre Barbet, has been bound together in a little book with Robert Hugh Benson's meditation on *HOLY WEEK* and published by Clonmore and Reynolds (2s. 6d.). The first essay, already noticed in this journal, is the work of a surgeon considering the Passion from his own scientific standpoint, the second a meditation written before Mgr Benson became a Catholic.

ST MEINRAD'S ABBEY, Indiana, has published a volume of essays on the priesthood to commemorate the 1,800 priests trained there in the past century. The essays, though uneven in quality, cover many aspects of the priest's life and are well worth reading, at least by the clergy.