

of convention was the talk of Italian society, seemed an improbable subject for the third veil, that of a nun. And this is where Alessandra's biography takes its unusual and unexpected turn. She came back to God and received an imperative call to the Carmelite life. She arranged for the education of her sons, disposed of her affairs and gave up the world. For twenty years she gave her life to God in prayer, in austerity, in suffering. At last, on January 2nd, 1931, Alessandra, now Mother Mary of Jesus, left this world for ever. 'Lord God, we are home' she whispered as she died. It was an arduous journey and it is described for us by Miss Lucy Prario with skill and sympathetic perception. Miss Prario is fortunate in her translator, Mr George Lamb.

KIERAN MULVEY, O.P.

SCIENTIFIC HUMANISM AND CHRISTIAN THOUGHT. By D. Dubarle, O.P. (Blackfriars; 10s. 6d.)

This is a collection of five articles first published in France a few years ago. They deal with the problem raised for Christians by technical advances such as automation in the contemporary world. Cybernetics is given clear treatment in the second article, which also has an interesting account of the theory of games and its possible applications. The remaining articles are rather short and vague over the complex question of how these new techniques will affect our civilization. Work of an occasional nature by a distinguished author is often worth collecting together; it is less often worth the trouble of translating. Too little discrimination is being shown in giving books the permanence of English paper, print, covers and well-designed jacket. We risk being swamped by a flood of books which were never intended to have them.

LAURENCE BRIGHT, O.P.

THE WAY IT WORKED OUT. By G. B. Stern. (Sheed and Ward; 10s. 6d.)

This book is a sequel to Miss Stern's story of her conversion, *All in Good Time*, and is described by her publishers as 'an eminent convert's most honest account . . . of what the faith did for her, and what it didn't do'. It is a lighthearted account and consists of a series of musings that produce the cumulative effect of a breathless, and rather pious, monologue. It is thus a patchy book and I found the most entertaining patches to be the stories about little-known saints. For the rest, some recent converts may find it of interest as revealing a community of bewilderment about some Catholic practices; Catholics of longer standing may find interest in the occasional fresh view of such customs.

It would seem, incidentally, to have worked out very well for Miss