

*The mention of a book here does not preclude future review. All are published in Britain unless otherwise stated.*

John Bowker's *The Sense of God* (Oxford University Press, paperback £1.75, hardback £5), subtitled *Sociological, Anthropological and Psychological Approaches to the Origin of the Sense of God*, is the text of part of one of the most stimulating series of lectures being given in the Oxford theology faculty. Here Bowker examines some of the behavioural accounts of man's sense of God; this survey will be complemented by a study of the accounts given by the theistic traditions themselves. *New Blackfriars* hopes to review the whole venture after its completion in 1975. First in English two years ago and reviewed in *New Blackfriars*, November 1972, Jacques Monod's controversial summary of current scientific thinking on the origins of life, *Chance and Necessity*, is now in paperback (Collins, Fontana Library, 50p).

*Class and Conflict in Nineteenth-Century England 1815-1850*, edited by Patricia Hollis (Routledge & Kegan Paul, £4.50), another selection of primary sources in the Birth of Modern Britain series, portrays the social tensions which helped to shape Victorian religion and irreligion. Gustavo Gutierrez's *A Theology of Liberation*, reviewed in *New Blackfriars*, December 1973, is now published in Britain (SCM Press, £2.10).

*Abortion in a Crowded World* (George Allen & Unwin, £3.65) is by S. Chandrasekhar, the former Minister of Health and Family Planning in the Government of India who amended India's abortion laws. He is patently unwilling to consider the weightiness of the arguments against abortion, but his book should be noted by people interested in the demographic problem. Simply and clearly written, Michael Scott's *Abortion: the facts* (Darton, Longman and Todd, 45p) is a good little book which would have been even better if the author had not overstated his case—his sociological and economic generalisations are based on inadequate data.

*Guilty, my Lord* (Sheed & Ward, £1.95), Bernard Basset's latest book, touches on aspects of the sacrament of penance and the confessional situation—but much much too lightly.

*The Wisdom of the Desert* (Sheldon Press, 75p) is a new edition of Thomas Merton's collection of sayings from the Verba Seniorum. Although it is not such a good buy as Helen Waddell's *The Desert Fathers*, the editor does convey something of himself and his own vision in this anthology. *Journey for a Soul* (Collins, Fontana Books, 40p) is a highly in-

dividual collection of prayers and meditation by George Appleton, until recently Anglican Archbishop in Jerusalem. *God and Man* (Hodder and Stoughton, 45p) is by Metropolitan Anthony (i.e. Anthony Bloom). A new edition of the book reviewed in *New Blackfriars* March 1972, some material has been redistributed and there have been a number of minor changes, but basically it is the same book as appeared in 1971.

*La rénovation dans l'Esprit*, by P-R Régamey, O.P. (Les Editions du Cerf, Paris 33F.), is the third and last volume of Régamey's *Redécouvrir la vie religieuse*, an earnest, carefully pondered attempt by a French Dominican of the older generation to meet the challenge of contemporary doubts about the distinctive value and meaning of religious life.

S. G. F. Brandon was Professor of Comparative Religion at Manchester until his death in 1971. His *Religion in Ancient History* (George Allen & Unwin, paperback £2.50, hardback £5.25) brings together the popular articles on the history of religion which he wrote in the last years of his life. All but two first appeared in *History Today*. It is lavishly illustrated.

Timothy J. Fawcett's *The Liturgy of Comprehension 1689* (Mayhew-McCrimmon, £4) is on a very early essay in ecumenism—the abortive late 17th-century Anglican attempt to reconcile at least some dissenters by a revisor of the Book of Common Prayer. Geoffrey Faber's controversial *Oxford Apostles* (Faber £1.90), first published in 1933 and for long the popular classic on the Oxford Tractarian Movement, is again in paperback. *I Will be Called John*, by Lawrence Elliott (Collins £3.50), yet another biography of Pope John, is superficial but racily written; a book for bed time produced primarily for sympathetic non-Catholic consumption.

*What Colour is God?* by Louis Brodie, O.J. (Sheed and Ward, £1.20) was originally written for a popular West Indian readership. The young Irish Dominican author, in his brief treatments of a wide range of scriptural and doctrinal questions, tries to mediate the results of modern biblical research and theological reflections in simple easily comprehensible language. Frequently he oversimplifies but his book deserves the attention of people interested in catechetics. Among recent children's books have appeared *Bible for Young Christians*, edited by A. M. Cocagna and Rosemary Houghton (Geoffrey Chapman £2.50), and *Praying with God's Family* (Chapman, 30p), which is intended to introduce 5-6-year-olds to Mass. Both are well illustrated. J.O.M.