

THE WHITE RABBIT. By Bruce Marshall. (Evans Bros.; 16s.)

This is not a book for those whose stomachs are easily turned. Here we have a description which presumably leaves nothing unrecorded of the horrors of Gestapo tortures, of Buchenwald's iniquity and despair. Yet it is a horror which fascinates as one marvels to think that the White Rabbit (Secret Service code-name for Wing Commander F. F. E. Yeo-Thomas, G.C., M.C.) survived such tortures and hardships to entrust the telling of his tale to Bruce Marshall. The pattern of this tale is already familiar to the many who know the story of Odette Sanson; her work with the French Resistance was directed by an organisation parallel to that served by Yeo-Thomas. There are the parachute landings in France, the use of aliases, the risks run for the sake of loyalty to colleagues in the Resistance, the inevitable capture by the Gestapo, the attempts to escape, the concentration camp, the successful escape in the hour of victory from slow strangulation and the return home which causes Yeo-Thomas's father to remark: 'My son has returned, but he looks like an old man of seventy'. Bruce Marshall has done justice to his friend's record of indomitable courage, heroic endurance and inspiring patriotism, and yet when the book ends one is left wondering what the hero of this story makes of it: the problems of this account lie at the depth of human experience and one would like to know the complete outlook of the man who encountered them in such a striking fashion. But perhaps this is asking too much. At least this book has satisfied the right of the many to know what was suffered for them by the few.

STANISLAUS PARKER, O.P.

AMPLEFORTH AND ITS ORIGINS. Edited by Abbot Justin McCann and Columba Cary-Elwes, O.S.B. (Burns Oates; 22s. 6d.)

Last Easter Ampleforth celebrated its one hundred and fiftieth anniversary, and to mark the event a volume of essays written 'by Members of the Ampleforth Community' appeared. The essays are carefully planned and dovetailed: they are best read in the order which they are published. Appropriately enough, therefore, the volume opens with an essay by the present Abbot on 'Saint Benedict and his Spirit' and acts, as it were, as a point of departure for others to tell of the growth of the Benedictine Order—especially in England. There are some fairly general essays on 'The Coming of Saint Augustine', Medieval and Tudor Westminster, and separate and detailed studies of Archbishop Gifford, Father Augustine Baker and Blessed Alban Roe. Then comes the history of the school itself in two parts: a study of its rise shortly after 1800 as 'a College . . . for the purpose of bringing up Youth to a Religious Life, and qualifying them for the discharge of Ministerial Functions' until 1812 when 'a limited number of young