

A STUDY OF THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST. By Spencer Leeson, Headmaster of Winchester College. (Student Christian Movement Press; 5s.)

A more illuminating title to this book might have been 'The Christian's Guide to Modern Life,' for this is the context in which Canon Leeson sets out the Gospel Message. The language is clear but not superficial, subtle yet not obscure, based on technical knowledge yet never obtruding it, so that the easy flow of thought and development of theme tend to make one forget the well-digested learning and thought behind it. The author has drawn on the rich fullness of the Christian tradition, Augustine, Bernard and Thomas Aquinas, and there is no watering down of the great doctrines of Sin, Redemption and Grace. Purely Christian values are set to the fore, theology as the queen of the sciences and reason as her handmaid, the value of the life of prayer over that of action; only the description of dogma as 'a hypothesis' and of faith as 'a surrender to a hypothesis' seem inadequate as a description of Christian faith and dogma.

While the value of real Science is upheld, the insufficiency of many modern shibboleths on the so-called opposition of Religion and Science is made plain, as also the inability of Science to explain the ultimate nature of things, the mystery of being. The two final chapters show how the Christian life is integrated in the world of to-day, leavening every action of the day.

C.B.D.

GOSPEL FOR TO-MORROW. By the Bishop of Truro. (Penguin Special, 6d.)

If this generation is looking for God, it will turn away from *Gospel for To-morrow* dissatisfied. For the Bishop of Truro is expounding not the faith of Christ, but the faith of the Bishop of Truro. It is difficult to say what that faith is, because positive statements are made in such carefully ambiguous phrases that one cannot say definitely whether the author believes, for example, that the Holy Spirit is a divine Person or a spirit of godliness in believers, whether Paul had a vision of Christ, or imagined the whole thing. The Apostles' Creed is reduced to six articles which could present no difficulty to a Mohammedan, and very little to a Buddhist.

For the arbitrary reason that it does not suit our twentieth century tastes, the whole Christian faith is reduced to such a minimum that there is no obvious reason why one should bother either to accept or to reject the 'Gospel for To-morrow.'

A.V.W.