

such as is envisaged by *Rerum Novarum* and *Quadragesimo Anno*.

Mr Reckitt's book will repay careful study by Catholics. There is a wide field now opening up of co-operation between Catholics and Anglicans in work for the Christianisation of industry, and the reading of this history of Anglican efforts in the direction of social reform will greatly stimulate interest in it.

HENRY ST JOHN, O.P.

CHILD PSYCHOLOGY. By A. T. Jersild.

A vast amount has been written on the subject of Child Psychology, and rightly so, since many of the difficulties of children are due to a want of understanding on the part of parents and adults. There are two approaches to the subject, the psycho-analytic method of studying a few individuals in very intimate detail, and the objective, experimental method favoured by most American psychologists. The former is often repulsive to the ordinary reader, and its findings are open to question. Mr Jersild has followed the latter method and in 'Child Psychology' has given a very comprehensive survey of recent experimental work in this field with very numerous references at the end of each chapter.

The greater part of the book is concerned with the child under school age. Only in some of the later chapters is the scope widened to embrace the younger school child and the author seldom refers to the adolescent period. The subject matter covers a wide range; it includes motor development, emotional and social behaviour, the growth of language, understanding and imagination, the formation of interest, ideals, morals. There is overlapping in parts, but this is to be expected in such a large work and it has the advantage of enabling each chapter to be taken by itself.

Motor and social development is discussed in great detail for there is abundant material to hand in these spheres. The subject of children's feelings and emotions is also fully dealt with. The author lays particular emphasis on the numberless fears, which affect even the very young child, and which are often hidden owing to adult misunderstanding.

The difficulty of studying the formation of children's ideas and morals has caused a scarcity of experimental findings in comparison with other branches, but Mr Jersild lays down some sound principles. He shows how moral ideas are formed first with regard to specific acts and situations and only much later develop into general rules of conduct, and he stresses the effect on the child of the discrepancy so often found between adult teaching and adult behaviour.

The chapter on Intelligence is rather disappointing. The discussion is of a general nature and does not throw any particular light on the effect of this factor in the development of the young child. We should like to know if intelligence has any noticeable effect on e.g. the acquisition of language or child behaviour before 'the use of reason'. It is in this chapter, however, that is found practically the

first reference to inherited factors, a reference we should like to have seen throughout the book.

The whole book forms a readable and at the same time a sound and comprehensive text for the more advanced student.

S. N. D.

POOR SCHOLAR: A Study of William Carleton. By Benedict Kiely. (Sheed and Ward; 10s. 6d.)

This book is a study of one whom W. B. Yeats called 'the greatest novelist of Ireland by reason of the most Celtic eyes that ever gazed under the brow of story-teller'. It is the study of an author, but it is a great deal more. It pictures the life of the Irish peasantry as Carleton saw them during the terrible first half of last century; Carleton who came of the peasantry, who knew them because he was one of themselves and who for that reason could feel as they felt.

After vile and prolonged onslaughts the Irish nation has risen from the dead, not once but repeatedly. Those who believe that there is an element of miracle in this will have their opinion strengthened as they read here of the nation's descent into hell after the rebellion of '98 and the famine years of the following century. 'The religious hates of the sixteenth century, the imperialism that came to life in the eighteenth, the cant of law, property and economic necessity that draped like a heavy cloak over the sins of the nineteenth, came together and festered on one small island. . . . Witnessing the unholy meeting, waiting and watching for every favourable moment were the black shadows of hunger, the red shadows of murder and sudden death'.

There were contradictions in Carleton's character. He tried to preach at his own people and when he did so he became tendentious. It may have been this attempted superiority of the moralist that finally lost him the Faith. He could write stories that were tedious, conventional, not seldom absurd. Yet Carleton was not insincere and when he wrote from the heart 'he interpreted Ireland in his own spasmodic, uneven way; sometimes faultlessly reflecting the sunshine, the green fields, echoing perfectly the birdsong, the voices of the little streams, the great unconquerable humour of the people; sometimes hearing the thunder and painting the sky darkening over acres black with decay; sometimes distributing abuse and praise with a sincere, unsteady sort of justice'. . . . He was the story-teller talking of fun and coloured amusement not in a contented house where all men are happy, but in a wake-house where all the noise and merriment was a mask or an antidote for mourning. Inevitably there would be at moments a lull in the fun, a break in the story, a silence with eyes turning to the door of the room where the body lay under-board, with waxen hands