

Many will find particularly interesting the account given of life in the University of Paris during the second half of the sixteenth century with its clash between humanists and scholastics and the desire, on the part of some, to 'return to the sources'. We seem to have heard it all before, much more recently. The description of Noel Beda, 'a theologian on horseback, booted and spurred, who lumped together Erasmus, Lefevre d'Etaples, and Guillaume Bude (who only asked to be allowed to settle hoti's business) as arians, donatists, hussites, and disguised lutherans' seems familiar. Integristes and progressistes were already confronting one another in the sixteenth century. St Ignatius showed himself a true Catholic by following the *via media*.

Never, perhaps, has the world in which St Ignatius was born and in which he followed his wonderful vocation been so vividly portrayed. It follows, naturally, that the central figure stands out all the more lovable and understandable for it. Moreover in these pages the famous Spiritual Exercises with which St Ignatius enriched Christian spirituality are seen in the setting in which they were first made and certain misconceptions about them are gently put aside.

The book is an outstanding contribution to hagiography, but even to those who have no interest in St Ignatius and the Jesuits it is an important contribution to our knowledge of life in France and Spain, and especially university life, at the end of the fifteenth and the beginning of the sixteenth centuries.

RICHARD BLUNDELL, S.J.

THE DOCTRINAL INSTRUCTION OF RELIGIOUS SISTERS. (Blackfriars Publications; 13s. 6d.)

This volume is the sixth to be translated of the series 'Problèmes de la religieuse d'aujourd'hui'. Like the others it consists of a series of papers read to a group of priests and nuns in Paris. It deals with the question of the sort of doctrinal instruction which should be given to religious women. That such instruction is necessary, but that in fact it is not always given, is the theme of the extremely interesting paper by Sister Jeanne d'Arc, O.P., which opens the series. She underlines the advantages of a thorough knowledge of the Faith and deals with certain specious, but all too common, objections to study. The whole of this chapter will repay careful reading. In particular the author points out that nuns have been obliged by modern circumstances to pursue studies to a high level in profane subjects and that it would be strange if the knowledge of divine things were the only science from which they were to be debarred.

Father Beyer, S.J., discusses woman's role in the Church at the present time as set forth in the teaching of H.H. Pope Pius XII, and in particular the responsibility of modern woman in religious life. Here is a mine of

wisdom and here too can be found the highest authority for many propositions still regarded by some as daring innovations. It would have been a help if the references could have been given from the AAS or the *Clergy Review* rather than from the *Documentation Catholique*, which must be accessible to few among English-speaking readers.

Chapter III is a paper by Father de Lestapis, S.J., on the promotion of woman in the modern world. The examples and statistics concern France and one might query the wisdom of leaving this chapter in the English edition. At first sight one might be tempted to make the same remark about Chapter V on the adaptation of secondary and university courses of men to the teaching of women by a Religious of the Sacred Heart, but in fact the chapter is one of the most valuable in the whole book. Though the problems are discussed and solutions proposed in a French context, there is much here to interest educators in English-speaking lands. There is also a paper on doctrinal training of contemplatives. The whole collection is worthy of a place in our libraries alongside its predecessors.

RICHARD BLUNDELL, S.J.

JESUS THE SAVIOUR. By Fr James, O.F.M.CAP. (Gill & Sons; 12s. 6d.)

Fr James may have written a better book than this. If so, I have yet to read it. This one is certainly better than anything of his I have yet read or scanned and does more to justify the huge proportions of his public.

It is, first of all, written, nearly all, with a fine economy of words which seems to suggest an increased facility in the marshalling of thoughts: and his thoughts are worth marshalling. It is scriptural, it is thomistic, it is easy reading. In short, it is a substantial and palatable spiritual reading book recommendable to anyone who desires to dwell upon the chief themes of our holy faith and will not be put off by an occasional obscurely technical phrase.

The main subjects are the love of God as shown in the Incarnation, the meaning of the life and work of St John the Baptist, Transfiguration, Redemption, Ascension. The chapter on Redemption is masterly, but will be best appreciated by those who have a little theological reading behind them. There is something inspiring in the chapter on the Ascension. The chapter on St John the Baptist is outstandingly good as a devotional and scriptural sketch. Not the least valuable part of this valuable book is the first chapter entitled 'Incarnation' which might be sub-titled 'In praise of St Thomas Aquinas'.

G. M. CORR, O.S.M.

THE GIFT OF ONESELF. By Joseph Schryvers, C.S.S.R. (Longmans; 9s. 6d.)

This reasonably priced presentation of a well-known work on self-