

Blackfriars

ABOUT THE OLD TESTAMENT. By the Most Rev. Alban Goodier, S.J., Archbishop of Bombay. (Burns, Oates and Washbourne, Ltd. ; pp. 196 ; 4/6 net.)

Most useful and helpful to students who do not want more profound works, but a handbook which shows them how to find their way about the library which is the Old Testament. But precisely because it is so useful we must criticise. To assign a thousand years for the composition of the Psalms seems over generous (p. 14) ; so, too, the dates given on pp. 18-19 might leave room for criticism ; the capture of Jerusalem, for instance, is generally assigned to B.C. 586 rather than to 588. *Apropos* of the historical character of some of the books, we fancy the author concedes too much. Is it right, for instance, to say ' whether they are entirely accurate or not ' (p. 42) ? or ' whether there are mistakes or not in detail does not affect the inspiration of the whole ' (p. 43) ? This seems to show a certain haziness on the nature of inspiration, we can gather what the writer means, but his expression of it might prove misleading to students not so well informed as he is. In every other respect the volume is most useful.

H.P.

TRUST. By Mother Mary Loyola. (Sheed and Ward ; 5/- net.)

The collected Scripture references alone, from this book, make a telling meditation on the subject of the work—*i.e.*, trust in the love and goodness of God. But there is plenty of excellent material for meditation apart from the scriptural texts. It seems a pity, however, that so much of what seems irrelevant matter has been introduced. Subjects such as Communism, modern education, or the latest pronouncements of modern scientists on the subject of evolution, cannot be adequately dealt with in a few paragraphs and appear beyond the scope of this little work, unless, of course, these few commentaries cause the reader to seek further into the Church's views on these much-discussed questions.

The headings under which the meditations—or chapters—are arranged are most inviting. Chapters VII and VIII are Mother Loyola at her best—also the last chapter, with its extracts from Mother Julian of Norwich. This little book should find its way into many a Catholic home.

S.C.