

## Book Reviews

EVANGILE SELON SAINT MARC, par le P. M.-J. Lagrange des Frères Prêcheurs. Quatrième édition corrigée et augmentée. (Paris : J. Gabalda et Fils ; 100 francs.)

It is nearly twenty years since the first edition of this book appeared. It was a truly great work, for the study of the Gospels a really epoch-making work, and its influence is apparent in all commentaries of value that have appeared since. Indeed, in some cases, 'influence' is hardly the right word. No one, for instance, who is acquainted with Père Lagrange's work, can read far in such volumes as those on Saint Mark and Saint Luke in the series of commentaries, entitled '*Verbum Salutis*,' published by a group of French Jesuits, without realising how very great their debt—by no means duly acknowledged—is to Père Lagrange.

The second and third editions were hardly more than reprints of the first. In this, the fourth edition, the commentary and the introduction have, the author informs us, 'been completely revised and partly corrected: I do not say "*completely corrected*," for what author is clear-sighted and impartial enough to do that?' He modestly adds that he thinks a deeper study of the other three Gospels has helped him to a better understanding of Saint Mark himself. If we cannot describe the present edition as epoch-making, that is only because it is the fourth and not the first. It still remains what it was acknowledged to be on its first appearance by competent judges of widely different schools, supreme among all commentaries on Saint Mark. It is supreme, first of all, by reason of its unmatched learning, scholarship and acumen. But it is supreme, most of all, for the way in which those qualities subserve the end which alone matters ultimately. What that end is Père Lagrange tells us at the end of his preface: 'In trying to understand what was written by Mark, the echo of what was spoken by Peter, the witness of Jesus, I have had no other intention than to hear better the words of life.'

L.W.

THE HISTORY OF PHILOSOPHY. By Paul J. Glenn, Ph.D., S.T.D. (B. Herder ; pp 383 ; 10/6.)

This work is expressly intended 'as a class text for undergraduate students whose knowledge of philosophy is, *ex hypothesi*, neither extensive nor profound.' One is bound to add that those students who use it will, *de facto*, attain extension of knowledge (the first proper name mentioned is Noe!), but certainly not profundity. Writing under the shadow of the grey