

ATLAS OF THE BIBLE. By L. H. Grollenberg, O.P. Translated and edited by Joyce M. H. Reid and H. H. Rowley. (Nelson; 70s.)

In 1953 the Dutch publishing firm of Elsevier invited Fr Luc Grollenberg, O.P., professor of Sacred Scripture at the Dominican house of studies at Nijmegen, to compile an atlas of the Bible. To help in its preparation the author spent several months in the Holy Land, a region already familiar to him from the years spent as a student at the Dominican Biblical School in Jerusalem. The result was a volume which had an immediate success in Holland, winning the highest praise from biblical scholar and literary critic alike. The original Dutch edition was very soon followed by a French translation, and now, in a commendably short time, by the present English version.

In a work of this kind, the immediate appeal is, of course, independent of language and the written word. The colours and symbols of the cartographer speak a universal language to the human eye. An even more immediate visual impact, however, is made by the superb photographs, many of them due to Fr Grollenberg's own skill with the camera, which illuminate this book. The dry bones of many an excellent map are made to live by a wide range of topographical pictures, above all by a remarkable series of aerial panoramas covering vast tracts of country which give the viewer almost the impression of a first-hand acquaintance with the physiography of the lands of the Bible. An additional dimension—or rather series of dimensions—so necessary in an historical atlas, is provided by a skilful choice of illustrations which present in a most telling way the light which the work of the archaeologist sheds on our understanding of the Bible and its background.

The compiler's art in this book has not, however, been limited to the work of assembling these visual aids and to the ingenuity shown in the neat and economic use of explanatory symbol. A text consisting of twenty-three short chapters not only gives a verbal commentary on the maps and illustrations but also embodies a strikingly vivid yet succinct account of the whole course of sacred history. Here Fr Grollenberg is astonishingly successful in combining a sober and critical appraisal of the results of modern scholarship with a refreshingly clear exposition of the theological meaning of the Bible as a whole. A glance at the table of contents on page seven reveals the zest and architectonic skill with which he undertook his task and brought it to completion. 'The Hebrew prophets regarded their people as a person; from this personification our Atlas takes its plan.'

Altogether this is a book where map, photograph and written word blend to form an immensely satisfying whole. The publishers, to whom English-speaking Catholics are already indebted for the *Catholic*

*Commentary on the Bible*, are to be congratulated on making every ingredient of this magnificent volume available to all in this country who love the Bible.

RONALD TORBET, O.P.

LA MORAL DE SAN AGUSTIN. By Gregorio Armas, O.R.S.A. (Madrid; Difusora del Libro; 250 pesetas.)

This is a bulky book. Its size may be accounted for by the wealth of texts chosen to illustrate the theology of St Augustine, but also because the Latin original is accompanied on the opposite page by a Spanish version. As the Spanish introduction indicates, an attempt has been made to give a bilingual synthesis of St Augustine's ethical teaching. This has not been an easy task, since St Augustine's thought was progressive and his prolific writings extremely varied.

On perusing this compilation the reader will find that certain subjects are treated of which also pertain to dogmatic theology, such as the Sacraments. The arrangement followed is that which is customary in modern manuals of moral theology. At the heading of each chapter brief summaries of the contents are given, which sometimes tend to raise undue expectations.

The work is divided into four parts under the following headings: Fundamental Moral Principles, Moral Virtues; Gifts of the Holy Ghost, Theological Virtues; Commandments of God and of the Church, Different States, The Sacraments, Crimes and Penalties. Explanatory notes are given on almost each page, and an index of matter and of authors may be found at the end.

AMBROSE FARRELL, O.P.

MAKING RELIGION REAL. By Nels Ferré. (Collins; 10s. 6d.)

In this book, which is really a series of essays, Dr Ferré, an American Protestant teacher, attempts to discover ways of making religion real by considering some human activities. Thinking can make our approach to God deeply personal, reading can enlarge and instruct our Christian view, prayer and worship can bring us near to God. Suffering, too, and family life can provide that sensitivity that is so necessary for spiritual development. All this is said with a certain charm but to the Catholic much must appear wanting. Christ's presence to us in the sacraments, the proclamation of his word by the Church, provides a point of contact that transforms the ways of realism sought by Dr Ferré into the way, the truth and the life.

IAN HISLOP, O.P.