

simple devotional quarterly magazine? To turn to St Paul or the Gospels after an hour with this book is like moving out into the country from the oppressive heat of a big city. Apart from a few passing allusions there is very little on Christ the living Person of the Gospels, and the essays on the Sacred Heart give the impression of talking about a heart and not about a man. Significantly enough there is not a word anywhere about preaching. Given the circumstances and the occasion for the writing of the individual essays it would be unfair to criticize them too severely, but one cannot praise the decision to present them in the form of a book. It is the sort of book that 'busy pastors' tend to misuse.

MURDOCH SCOTT, O.P.

THE GOSPEL PRIESTHOOD. By Dom Hubert van Zeller. (Burns and Oates; 10s. 6d.)

This book is a collection of twelve monthly articles from *Emmanuel* of 1954 and so is loosely hung on the high points of the liturgical year. They are intended as reflections on various aspects of the priest's life on the parish and point the attitude of mind with which the priest must approach them. That is good—for it is useless to attack the surface symptoms and not rather the attitude that produces them. Dom Hubert is always stimulating and he calls these articles 'jabs from the short sword' to awaken the conscience, but sometimes one feels the jabs may produce only flesh-wounds, for there is a curious remoteness about it—very different from such a book as *Vessel of Clay* or *A Man Approved*.

It certainly cannot be due to lack of imagination, for the author's other books show he has plenty of that. Perhaps it is due to lack of context, not sufficiently down to earth. There is no mention of the loneliness of the secular priest's life, the burden of finance and form-filling, discouragement from leakage, stupidity of others and consciousness of one's own limitations. His spiritual advice is sound but lacks punch. And even today when book prices have soared, ten-and-six seems rather a large sum for a slight book of scarcely a hundred pages.

BRUNO DONOVAN, O.S.B.

THE NEW MAN. By Ronald Gregor Smith. (S.C.M. Press; 10s. 6d.)

This book, which bears the sub-title, *Christianity and Man's Coming of Age*, consists of five lectures originally given in Australia. At the beginning of his first lecture the author tells us that on the groundwork of a study of the biblical teaching about the main content of the religion of Israel he is attempting to present a view of the christian understanding of man in history.