

## REVIEWS

advantageously to keep in order two hundred and eighty maxims formulated by St. John to meet the needs of individual souls greatly varying in temperament and insight. If some maxims appear to be dragged into their proper section, as it were, by the skin of their teeth, that is far from weakening our interest in them and will not hinder us from utilising them in our own way, in a personal synthesis, which may not be so subtle as Dom Chevallier's, but which has the advantage of being our own.

Strange, the reader will exclaim, perhaps, that the maxims of the mystical Doctor should be almost entirely concerned with conduct! Well, he knows! And we must admit that, where the divine magnetic force remains in itself invisible and ineffable, the iron filings of the seeker's doings and sufferings point to It and surround It, hushed in adoration.

Amid so many maxims where the austerity of the Teacher is shown forth in the stern terseness of his expression, it is a relief, at times, to find St. John the Poet emerging in a figure like that of maxim 222:

'Hair that is frequently combed will keep in good order and will be easy to comb as often as one desires. The soul that frequently sifts its motives, utterances and doings, that is guided by the love of God in all encounters, will have a magnificent head of hair, and the Spouse will turn His gaze towards the neck of His Beloved and will be ravished at the sight.'

C.R.

**BERNADETTE, CHILD OF MARY.** By Fr. Lawrence McReavy, M.A. (Alexander Ouseley; 3/6 net.)

If you already have a devotion to Bernadette, this book will certainly delight you, if you have not, the reading of it will surely make you love her. As the author says in his preface: 'This is not the story of Our Lady of Lourdes but of one of her greatest miracles of grace, Bernadette.' 'Our Lady found her a normal little girl and left her a normal little girl,' and Father McReavy gives us a delightfully satisfying account of the stubborn little Pyrenean peasant being led by her 'lovely Lady' along the familiar road of the saints, that of humiliations and suffering. With her sturdy common sense and her Heaven-taught prudence we see Bernadette steering her way through the difficulties of a publicity calculated to ruin any spiritual life less firmly grounded in humility. Our Lady promised 'to make her happy not in this world, but the next,' and this book enables us to learn how she kept her word.

M.F.