

IN VIEW of the Christian's attitude to the possibility of immense world-wide wars and devastation today he should be careful to avoid the facile apocalyptic that looks for the end of the world on the morrow. *Lumière et Vie* (September, 1953) with its usual thoroughness and sound scriptural foundations has tackled the question, 'Is the End of the World coming tomorrow?'. Since our Lord promised that the Day would come for all mankind, the Last Day, the Day of Judgment, Christians—saintly ones at that—have from time to time looked for the immediate fulfilment of that promise. Atomic destruction has raised those anxious questionings once again.

The misery of the world has always been the starting point for questions of this kind. How then can we avoid being disquieted by the terrifying means of destruction put into man's hands today? The use of atomic fission for killing leads even the most serene spirit to ask to what limits destruction may go. The setting up of huge political blocks animated by hate for each other leads one to expect clashes that will surpass in horror anything that humanity has so far had to suffer.

M. Pierre Humbert, of Montpellier University, affirms on behalf of the scientists that they can state only that the world will eventually come to an end, but whether sooner or later they are as much in the dark as the ordinary Christian. Père Dubarle goes further and reassures the reader that the likelihood of humanity utterly destroying itself with the new lethal weapons at its disposal is utterly remote, and he too speaks with the scientific authority of a physicist. Nevertheless the Day of the Lord will surely come, and it is the duty of the Christian to await that day without attempting to calculate whether it be near or far. The promise of Christ's return, here considered in the New Testament texts, remains a reality for every Christian.

RIVISTA DI VITA SPIRITUALE, the Roman Carmelite review, begins its large and interesting double number (April to July 1953) with an account of its founder, Father Gabriel of St Mary Magdalen, who died in March of this year. The world of mystical science as well as of true spiritual direction has lost a shining light in the death of this Carmelite with his world-wide reputation for wisdom and learning in the matters of the Spirit.

## NOTICE

WALLS ARE CRUMBLING by John M. Oesterreicher was published nearly two years ago in America by Devin-Adair. We are pleased to welcome an English edition in a more conventional format from Hollis and Carter (30s.). In the review that appeared in our November 1952 issue, P. wrote:

'We meet seven Jewish seekers after truth, all of our age and times, who each in his individual way found and drank from the Fount and Source of all truth, Jesus Christ. The profound learning and scholarship of the author have bestowed a valuable contribution upon the world of Catholic thought.'

**THE 1954 DOUBLE NUMBER  
FEBRUARY and MARCH**

## **THE SCRIPTURES & THE SPIRIT**

will contain the papers given at the LIFE OF THE SPIRIT Conference (not in the January issue as previously announced) and other relevant articles and translations.

*Authors include:*

Dom Bede Griffiths, Sebastian Bullough, o.p.,  
E. I. Watkin, Nicolette Gray, Dr F. B. Elkisch,  
Vincent Reade, Orat. Cong., Mgr H. F. Davis.

*Reviews      Notices      Extracts      Illustrations*

About 90 pages

**Price 3s. 6d.**

THE LIFE OF THE SPIRIT, 34 Bloomsbury Street, w.c.1