

REVIEWS

THE CARDIJN STORY. By Michael de la Bedoyère. (Longmans, Green and Co.; 15s.)

Monsignor Joseph Cardijn is the founder of the Young Christian Workers Movement, and so much are the man and his work bound up that *The Cardijn Story* is as much a history of the one as a biography of the other. However, Mr de la Bedoyère does not claim to have written a full biography, but merely to have attempted to convey something of the spirit and personality of 'one of the most remarkable priests of our time', and his attempt has been largely successful. Not completely successful, though: partly, perhaps, because of the difficulty in writing one of the first books about a man and a society distinguished by a 'lack of self-contemplation' and partly because of a seemingly somewhat uncritical approach. He admits that there are aspects of his subject's character (and, consequently, of the spirit of the Y.C.W.) that do not at once appeal to English people, and whilst he is at pains to show that these traits are hardly of fundamental importance, he seems to have hurried over one or two incidents that might have helped to complete the picture. What, for instance, were Cardinal Mercier's own reasons for finding it necessary to suppress the nascent movement? and why did Tonnet, a founder member, eventually resign from it and so soon afterwards find himself in disagreement with his former colleagues?

But these are small matters, and do not detract from the real merit of the book in bringing out the force and single-mindedness of this dedicated priest and of the greatness and potentialities of the Y.C.W. Movement. In doing this it is timely and welcome, and to none will it be more valuable, surely, than to those who are still sceptical or ill-at-ease about the 'apostolate of the worker'; it may not convert all critics, but it should at least allay their more serious misgivings.

M.T.

THE FAMILY CLINIC. A Book of Questions and Answers. By John L. Thomas, S.J. (The Newman Press, Westminster, Maryland; \$3.95.)

This well-produced book is compiled from an American syndicated newspaper column in which Fr Thomas gives short answers to readers' queries on social and moral problems; in this country a somewhat similar series is run by Fr Lawson, S.J., in the monthly *Christian Democrat*. Fr Thomas has divided his questions and answers into four main categories: husband-wife relationships, parent-child relationships, pre-marital problems, and the family and society. Altogether there are