

and to the point. The greatest thing about the book is that it can claim to be one of the first thorough expositions of the Catholic teachings on prayer written from outside. As such, it necessarily points to the growing realisation of the necessity for prayer and grace, the reaction of the small hard core, crystalising its understanding of the essentials, while the majority, alas, drop into paganism. Hence the greater power of the High Church Movement, hence the reintroduction of 'the priest' and 'the Mass', because 'It is, of course, of first importance to remember that all the Christian mystics held firmly that it was only through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ on the Cross and His redemption of mankind that such union with God was possible at all'; and this statement is only half made, if you ignore the continual renewal of that Sacrifice 'from the rising of the sun to the going down thereof'.

But the great weakness of the book lies in its doctrine of the Church which underlies the whole exposition. The author takes all he likes and wants from the Church, including the title Catholic, yet he discards the very obedience he advocates.

M.H.

PASTORAL PSYCHOLOGY. A Study in the Care of Souls. By Göte Bergsten. (Allen and Unwin; 15s.)

This book by a Swedish pastor is an effort to assist his non-Catholic colleagues in their ministrations as spiritual counsellors. The author is generous with advice, some excellent, some more doubtful, which would perhaps have been more helpful had he adopted a less assertive style and taken more pains to meet his readers by explaining the why and wherefore. Catholic priests and social workers may find it of some assistance only on condition that they are already equipped to winnow the grain from the chaff.

V.W.