

Book Reviews

to the glory of God in the salvation of souls. And his was a stupendous triumph, and yet a triumph of failure and disappointment. He had made himself all things to all men, and he died abandoned, almost alone, on the threshold of what might have been his greatest triumph. Let the book speak for itself; once taken up, it will not lightly be set down. Such 'lives' of saints are all too few.

J.K.

ONE HUNDRED READINGS FOR THE SICK. By Fr. Robert Eaton. (Burns, Oates & Washbourne; 3/6.)

'In sickness,' wrote Jeremy Taylor, 'the soul begins to dress for immortality. It is that agony in which men are tried for a crown': an agony, therefore, which is an opportunity for the practice of humility, resignation to God's will, and especially patience. In his 'Hundred Readings' Fr. Eaton has provided plenty of excellent help and instruction. However, *facile omnes, cum valemus, recta consilia, aegrotis damus*.

G.T.

UNDER HIS SHADOW. Devotional Studies in the Sacred Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ. By the Reverend Francis Shea, C.P. (The Sign Press, Monastery Place, Union City, New Jersey, U.S.A.; \$1.60.)

To-day, when to most minds penance is an obsolete barbarism and suffering is regarded in practice if not in theory as a greater evil than sin, there is special need for meditation on the Passion, and for clear, forcible explanations of the Church's doctrine on suffering. These Father Shea has excellently supplied in these twenty-six studies, reprinted at the request of many readers of *The Sign* (the monthly magazine edited by the American Passionists) in which they first appeared.

Those who use them as meditations will do well to read the wise definition on p. 166: 'Watching Jesus is a holy and fruitful occupation.' And yet it will surprise many to know that it is nothing else but *Meditation*. Saints have urged the practice of meditation, have pointed out its advantages, have outlined the manner of making it. Many have been moved by their arguments, have been desirous of reaping its fruits, but have been repelled or discouraged by the unfamiliar, psychological terms employed to explain the exercise. Meditation on the Passion can be defined in its simplest terms as 'Watching Jesus' and asking oneself the question: 'As I am now, as I feel at present, what does that mean for me?' Thus,