

Blackfriars

on the basis of their conception we shall soon find ourselves involved in a complex theological debate about *intention* and the bearing of personal beliefs on public and official acts, a debate which will quickly reveal the wide gulf which separates those who hold different conceptions of the meaning of Catholic authority.

For this reason we think that, though Fr. Rope's book is excellently calculated to strengthen the convictions of the already convinced, it does not touch the fringe of the difficulty for those whose convictions are not ours. Moreover the unnecessary acerbity which creeps into his writing will irritate rather than persuade.

H.St.J.

THE WAY OF LIFE : AN INTRODUCTION TO THE CATHOLIC RELIGION. By the Rev. G. J. MacGillivray, M.A. (Burns, Oates & Washbourne; pp. 275; 6/-).

The ways into the Church are diverse and devious. *Quidquid recipitur ad modum recipientis recipitur.* Some converts come in treading on air, others humanly reluctant and struggling, and the case is recorded of one who walked in backwards. To find that such different folk are drawn to her—and in such different ways—is a satisfying argument persuading us that the Church is the one only ark of salvation. Father MacGillivray's book presents what may be called the straightforward approach to the Church; he uses the direct method. There is no controversy; the Church is not explained in terms of Anglicanism or Protestantism; no time is spent unpicking, unlearning or retracing false steps; but he gives a positive exposition of the plain, simple teaching of the Church. The method has the high sanction of Him who said, 'First seek ye the Kingdom of Heaven'; and it should commend itself to those (and how many they are nowadays!) who are befogged and bewildered by negations and prohibitions and seek something positive and definite. Father MacGillivray's excellent book, it is to be hoped, will do much to dispel ignorance and help to lead many into the Way of Life.

WHAT THINK YOU OF CHRIST? By Father C. C. Martindale, S.J. (Sheed & Ward; 2/6).

The central theme of these five sermons is, 'Christ, our model, no matter how incomplete our view.' Whether we regard Him as simply a Good Workman, or a man who was 'Right' all through, or the-greatest-to-date, or as a Unique Figure—