

THE NEW PSALTER OF PIUS XII. Latin and English texts: Notes and Spiritual Reflections. By the Very Rev. C. J. Callan, O.P., S.T.M., LITT.D. (B. Herder, London, W.C.; 45s.)

Any work which can contribute to a better knowledge and love of the Psalter is much to be welcomed, and so too this handsomely produced volume. The New Psalter of Pius XII certainly calls for a new translation, and the unpretentious renderings of this literal yet readable version should appeal. Further, a student can learn as much about translation as about the Psalms, by carefully comparing this rendering, verse by verse, with that of Mgr Ronald Knox, in his more accessible *Book of Psalms*. For the rest, notes and comments, we have a work designed for the generality of educated Catholics: *vulgarisation* with some, perhaps inevitable, simplifications. We would have preferred a verse by verse type of commentary, with doctrinal summaries; and more stress on the varieties and genres of the Psalms, their very hebraic flesh and blood realities, as well as their spiritual profundities of this hymn book which is for all time.

R.D.P.

NEWMAN AT OXFORD. By R. D. Middleton. (Oxford University Press; 21s.)

This book is a study of Newman's thought up to the time at which he left the Anglican communion. In his *Apologia* Newman has left us his own record of this. Mr Middleton does not add anything essential to that record, nor does he attempt to do so; what he does do is to fill in the *minutiae* of the background of that work. By bringing before us in a deliberate and exact manner the books and the people who influenced Newman, and the minor characters who, like those in a Shakespearean tragedy, comment upon the situation at each significant crisis, by writing with a sense of place which recreates the Oxford of Newman's day, he adds life and interest to the numerous extracts from the *Apologia* which necessarily appear in his book. After a brief chapter on early influences the scene changes to Oxford, and Mr Middleton's narrative, which sometimes sinks under the burden of unnecessary detail, rises to a climax with the battle over *Tract* 90 and closes with a fine tribute to Newman's memory.

Even before the skirmishes begin there is much of interest about Newman's friends; about Hawkins, for instance, that country clergyman who imparted to Newman a skill in controversy which, to Newman's surprise, was later attacked as 'Roman'; or Keble, whose devotional verse, here quoted at some length, hardly justifies Mr Middleton's praise of it. Here too is encountered the Oxford 'character' beloved of Paul Elmer More but with solidity of learning to balance eccentricity: Dr Buckland, whose lodgings contained bears, monkeys