

## REVIEWS

libraries, for it is one which the non-Catholic may read with interest and profit.

There are some small but rather irritating defects, such as the odd reference to ' Faith ' as a luxury for the convert, when what is meant is clearly emotional certainty ; the ascribing to the *Te Deum* of a quotation from the *Sanctus*, an excusable mistake when sleeping out on a glacier, but not when perpetuated in the ' cold light of reason.' And there is a bad misprint in this and in another Latin quotation, one printed, moreover, in capital letters. The proof reader should have seen to this.

M.A.B.

**GATES OF HELL.** By Erik R. v. Kuhnelt-Leddihn. (Sheed and Ward; 7/6.)

An American business man once said that in his world-wide experience the only concern that beat Standard Oil for efficiency was the Catholic Church. It was meant as a compliment, though it may seem a dubious one on second thoughts. Is it true? Should it be true? Anyhow, here is a novel by an author who seems to know Europe from Somerset to the Caucasus, from Finland to the Rif, which shows the Church at grips with Communism, fighting to save the very nature of man, with a terrible sense of power not an easy confidence, and using all the modern technique of organization. Watchful and decisive, Rome at the centre; the confusion of combat on the frontiers. This is the background of the story, a thriller—no doubt about that. The formula has been worked before, but this novel bears the relation to those of Robert Hugh Benson that a modern talkie does to the flicks of twenty years ago. Besides the action there is the thought, the reaction of a young and vigorous mind to the European view. Taken as excitement or argument, or both, this book is an excellent piece of work, and can be recommended even to those who have a taste for something more shaded and delicate. There is nothing cosy in this story of a man who loses his lover, his identity, and finally his life in the service of the Church. Nor is it such pure fiction as those may imagine whose religion is more sheltered, and whose civilization is less menaced. The author certainly does not understate the issue, but his oppositions are not merely violent. His quality of mind saves him from this trick of the religious romanticist. The publishers are to be congratulated on this book, and on their translator, who has rendered the German MS.—not yet published—into forcible English. What an excellent film the story would make. Cannot something be done about this?

T.G.