

## BOOK REVIEWS

MORE LAY THOUGHTS OF A DEAN. By William Ralph Inge.  
(London : Putnam's. Pp. 320; 7/6.)

'Criticize opinions and institutions, but do not attack individuals. That is right, no doubt, and I shall not change my rule. But it is unwise. Individuals sometimes forgive, institutions never. And in controversy they prefer what Campbell-Bannerman called the methods of barbarism.' The bitterness of a Catholic journalism against Dean Inge is a thing more distressing to some than his own antagonism towards the Church. A campaign of which 'more than one Burnt Child . . . now dreads the Fire' continues to justify his words by insulting him. Every personality has some element in it unworthy of the rest. To concern oneself solely with that element is not catholic.

There are things in these *Lay Thoughts* with which the Catholic will be unable to agree; there are phrases which will seem to him to mar the book. There is a sentence attributed to St. Thomas which neither translates his words nor expresses his thought. But on the whole, these essays reveal clear, often deep, thinking; a fine spirituality; a style born of grace and culture. There is much that is helpful, much that is inspiring. Especially stimulating are the epigrams with which the pages sparkle. 'Personalize your sympathies: depersonalize your antipathies' is one of the great sayings of the book. It is good to read that Dr. Inge has 'a great and growing respect for the Catholic scholastic theology.'

L.S.G.V.

THE THIRD SPIRITUAL ALPHABET. By Fray Francisco de Osuna.  
Translated from the Spanish by a Benedictine of Stanbrook.  
(Burns, Oates & Washbourne; 10/6.)

Osuna's *Third Alphabet* has one supreme recommendation, that it was a favourite book with St. Teresa. Indeed it would seem to have been the chief influence in her formation to the life of interior prayer. She herself tells us, in her autobiography, how she fell in with the *Tercer Abecedario* in the second year of her religious life and that it gave her the instruction which she had needed. 'Though in the first year I had read good books . . . I did not know how to make my prayer, nor how to recollect myself. I was therefore much pleased with