

philosophy as well as in military tactics. Is it surprising that Fascism grew by way of opposition, in these conditions?

From Mr. Braunthal's own example it is clear that Socialism can only be established through revolution, be maintained in an atmosphere of continued violence, and lead to civil wars quite as horrible as the old imperialist wars between nations.

EDWARD QUINN.

EUROPEAN CATHOLICS AND THE SOCIAL QUESTION. By M. D. R. Leys. (Catholic Social Guild; 9d.)

Anyone who thinks that Catholics are not sufficiently interested in social security will be pleasantly surprised to discover from this excellent and incredibly cheap booklet that bishops, priests and leading laymen were advocating measures more far-reaching, more revolutionary, and more in accordance with human dignity, than those outlined in the Beveridge report, nearly a hundred years before that document appeared. The progress of events, the background and the principles are all outlined here with simplicity and brevity.

E.Q.

THE VILLAGE. By F. G. Thomas. MARKET TOWN. By John R. Allan. THE FARMYARD. By F. Fraser Darling. (Humphrey Milford; 2s. 6d. each.)

These volumes of the new series *The Story of the Countryside* are addressed in the first place to members of the Young Farmers' Clubs, secondly, to other young people of like interests who may become the farmers of the future. They provide a historical and geographical background to the country life of to-day, and encourage intelligent research into the past of local communities. Their chief weakness is the studied avoidance of controversy in such things as the change of religion, the industrial revolution, the enclosures, the connection between imports and dividends. *Maxima debetur puero reverentia*; all these matters are kept extremely clean, and the general impression given is that all change is for the better. Each volume is illustrated; *The Farmyard* with excellent photographs, the other two with drawings of questionable merit.

W.S.

DIFFICULTIES IN MENTAL PRAYER. By Father Eugene Boylan, O.Cist.R. (Gill & Son; 5/-).

This is a most helpful book; perhaps the best of its kind that has appeared in recent years. Father Boylan writes simply, carefully, prudently, fearlessly, with a truly Cistercian economy of words; and in solving difficulties and correcting mistakes gives a great deal of

sane, positive advice on Mental Prayer. This book will be invaluable for priests, religious and layfolk. It will eventually find its place in every spiritual library.

*Difficulties in Mental Prayer* is not a scientific work. The author describes its scope: 'this is not a theoretical text-book discussing the difficulties of prayer in general or abstract terms; it is rather an attempt to help individual souls to deal with their own difficulties, and it looks at the spiritual life, not in a scientific, objective manner, but from the subjective point of view of the individual, treating it as it appears, to the individual in practice' (p. 53).

The book contains no index: a major blemish which we hope will be removed in future editions. A larger type would help.

F.V.

CALENDARS, PRAYER CARDS, BOOKMARKERS and the like are hard to come by in these days; but at Christmas and the New Year their lack is an asceticism that we cannot appreciate. Edward R. Westbrook, of 39, Ridgeway Road, Osterley, Mdx., however still manages to supply new and improved designs of these quasi-necessities. They are simple and inexpensive; there is nothing of the sugar-cake about them, yet they should prove attractive even to those who have been brought up on the sugar-cake tradition. The 1943 Calendars are 2/- and 1/-; the bookmarkers 6d. and 3d.; the Holy Pictures 1½d. And now there is plenty of choice.

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