

every page, that gives this new *Life of Our Lord* a special value and causes it to be both an attractive and a practical help towards a more vivid appreciation of the supreme manifestation of divine Truth and Love.

HILARY J. CARPENTER, O.P.

A COMPANION TO THE SUMMA. Vol. II. The Pursuit of Happiness. By Walter Farrell, O.P., S.T.L., S.T.D. (Sheed and Ward; 10s. 6d.)

Fr. Walter Farrell promises to give us in four volumes a guide book to the *Summa*. He calls it a *Companion to the Summa*, and a very good companion it will be, if we may judge from this, the first volume to appear. The work owes its origin, as the author explains in the preface, to a series of lectures given in New York under the auspices of the Catholic Thought Association, and we are most grateful to Fr. Farrell for his decision to give those lectures permanent record and so make them accessible to the general reading public.

The present volume covers the whole of the *1aIIæ* and is fittingly called 'The Pursuit of Happiness.' The author's method is to take a few questions of the *Summa* at a time, to summarise their content schematically and then to give in the course of fifteen or twenty pages the substance of the doctrine contained in them. He thus follows closely the order of the *Summa* and omits nothing of importance to the understanding of the main lines of St. Thomas's thought. Fr. Farrell has an enviable power of compressing without distorting, of illustrating by example without distracting, of modernising the language without falsifying the concept, whilst at times there appears a rhetorical genius which suggests that the original lectures must indeed have been worth hearing. An 'Analysis of Modern Ethical Opinion' (the word is aptly chosen) forms the subject of a final chapter, which, if we may venture a small criticism, is rather more exclusively concerned with American opinion than its title indicates.

Theological students, whether studying directly from the *Summa* or using a modern text-book, will find this volume invaluable as a concise, orderly and balanced summary of the general part of St. Thomas's Moral Theology. We recommend it none the less heartily to the layman as a manual of General Ethics and as an introduction to the Moral Doctrine of the Angelic Doctor. We look forward with pleasure to the other volumes of the series.

ALEXANDER L'ESTRANGE, O.P.