

GOD, UNITY AND TRINITY. By F. J. Sheed. (Sheed & Ward; 2s. 6d.)

In handy form Dr Sheed gives us the first nine chapters of *Theology and Sanity* which was published ten years ago and has established itself as an excellent theological exposition of the idea of God necessary for believers and unbelievers alike.

SHANE LESLIE'S GHOST BOOK. (Hollis & Carter; 12s. 6d.)

What is the theological answer to the question about the existence of ghosts? St Thomas says it turns upon the possibility of the departed soul leaving its abode in heaven, hell or purgatory. There is no permanent exit from hell or heaven; but God may permit souls to leave their abode for a time, for a reason: the damned may be allowed to appear for man's instruction; or the souls in purgatory may come to seek our suffrages; and he cites St Augustine who relates how Felix the Martyr appeared visibly to the people of Nola when they were besieged by the barbarians. And was it really Samuel's ghost which appeared to Saul (I Kings 28), or was it a diabolical impersonation? The wise and learned are not agreed. It is quite clear that necromancy is forbidden and the Church has given guidance and warnings on the practices of the Spiritualists. We are not allowed to attempt by the craft of magic to raise the dead or seek communication with them. But there is nothing we can do to prevent them if God so permits from communicating with us; and Sir Shane Leslie is dealing simply with such types of manifestation. His really thrilling collection differs from the well-known book of the late Lord Halifax in this that he excludes the invented ghost story. Some of Lord Halifax's stories were fiction, just as were some of those of the late Montagu James. Wherever possible Sir Shane has taken pains to corroborate his facts. Often enough they are horrible facts, though sometimes they are consoling and delightful. The fact that there are ghosts seems beyond all denial, though the meaning or moral of their appearances often eludes us. As Montagu James said to Sir Shane: 'Depend upon it! Some of these things are so, but we do not know the *rules!*'

BERNARD DELANY, O.P.

SECOURS DE LA GRÂCE ET SECOURS DE LA MÉDECINE. By Jean-Pierre Schaller. (Desclee de Brouwer; n.p.)

A well-read priest, reflecting on the medical information available to the average educated reader, applying his Thomist philosophy to its interpretation, viewing the result in the light of revelation and the theology of the sacraments, here gives us a series of wise helpful *causeries* on the ways in which body and soul interact in the normal life of the spirit.