

BLACKFRIARS

Gospel emphasis from the future to the present life. This evacuates Christianity, and causes it to be judged falsely as a complete "social" system and responsible for social ills and their cure—which it is not, lacking means of coercion. The example of the truly balanced attitude will be found in Monseigneur Six, Apostle of Work.

This book offers an opportunity for someone to do a good service to the Church in England by translating.

FINBAR SYNNOTT, O.P.

LA VIE EN FLEUR, Ce qu'une Adolescente du XXe. Siècle doit savoir, par Marguerite Csaba, Adaptation française par Marie Francoeur (Editions Salvator, Mulhouse, Haut-Rhin; 15 frs.).

A LA SOURCE PURE DE LA VIE, Conseils à des Mères Chrétiennes sur l'Initiation Sexuelle des Enfants, par R. P. Schmitz, traduit de l'Allemand par M. l'Abbé E. Roblin. (Editions Salvator; 4 frs.)

LECONS CATECHETIQUES SUR LE SIXIEME COMMANDEMENT par Chanoine Leopold Uhl, traduit de l'Allemand par M. l'Abbé L. Dehaene. (Editions Salvator; 9 frs.)

French Catholics are fortunate indeed to have the Editions Salvator, as well as the Maginot line, on their eastern frontier.

This enterprising firm appears to make it its chief business to make available the works of Central European Catholics for French consumption. A particular speciality is the translation and adaptation of books of sex instruction by Catholics. English Catholic publishing houses would render an immense service were they to follow the example of this Alsatian firm. The fewness of such works in English is little short of a disgrace.

Unfortunately Editions Salvator is not always over-discriminating in its choice of what to bring across the Rhine and what to leave the other side.

Life in Flower, or What a Young Girl of the Twentieth Century ought to Know is guaranteed by the patronage and the preface of Mgr. Tihamer Toth. It is written with frankness and understanding by a Hungarian woman doctor. While her judgments may sometimes seem a little severe (at least for rigorous application in the case of town-bred girls), there is no nonsense about Dr. Csaba; no attempt to veil matters behind a screen either of sentimental pietism or erotic romanticism. She is outspoken in her remarks on the sins of society, but never priggish. Hygiene, fashion, sport, reading, amusements and a host of other things come under consideration besides matters more directly sexual.

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She is not above giving tips on care for the skin as well as on the dodges of white-slave traffickers. Her success is due to the fact that she shows herself on every page to be no abstract moraliser, but really interested and concerned for her readers, their bodies and souls.

Father Schmitz, as his title implies, sets out to meet another and no less pressing need. He drives home forcibly the heinousness of parental neglect in this matter, and gives them much sound advice in the matter of procedure, in particular with regard to the *time* for "sexual initiation." He points out the dangers of being too early or too late, and, still more emphatically, the dangers of lies and evasions. He shows that there is such a thing as a specifically Christian and Catholic sex-instruction, and he explains briefly what it is. There would be much less smothered unhappiness among Christian children, and doubtless much less neuroticism, vice and "leakage" among Catholic adolescents and adults, were his advice propagated and heeded.

Canon Uhl's booklet, on the contrary, might almost seem destined to cultivate the sex-obsession which breeds neurotics. There is hardly one page in it which does not seem determined to cultivate a morbid loathing for the body and a terror of all its works, heightened by a cringing fear of hell-fire. It is amusing enough for an adult to read such a typical admonition as, "S'il faut aller aux cabinets, prenez soin que personne ne vous y voie," (the pregnant italic is ours), but to deliver pages of such stuff to Christ's little ones cannot easily be absolved from *scandalum parvulorum* in the most strict and horrible sense. It is not only what the book says, but the nasty way it says it that is thoroughly offensive. We cannot believe that this is typical of the instruction given in German confessional schools, but if it were so it would go far to explain why fond German Catholic parents are found to vote against them.

VICTOR WHITE, O.P.

CHRISTIAN SOCIOLOGY

AND WHO WANTS PEACE? By Eric Gill. WAR AND THE CHRISTIAN CONSCIENCE. By Nicholas Berdyaev. MORALITY AND POLITICS. By Luigi Sturzo. (Pax Pamphlets, Nos. 1, 2, 3. James Clarke, 6d. each.)

These are the first of a series of pamphlets issued in collaboration with the "Pax" society. The first is the text of Mr. Gill's speech in the Kingsway Hall on Armistice Day, 1936, at the meeting about which the press was so discreetly silent. In the