

to us and not to the world?'

No doubt the 'aids to eye' of the four-volume edition had to be curtailed, but it is a pity that the layout of the page is not more pleasing. It would be useful, too, to have chapter headings at the top of the page.

ANOTHER TWO HUNDRED SERMON NOTES. By F. H. Drinkwater. (Burns Oates; 15s. 0d.)

Sermon notes are only useful to preachers who have already made their own preparation. Another preacher's treatment of a theme may indeed often be a reminder of something left out, may suggest a fresh emphasis or, indeed, even urge a further development of a different interpretation. It ought never to be a substitute for the work of study and composition and, above all, of prayer, without which the most fluent eloquence is valueless.

Fr Drinkwater's collection provides outlines for two sermons on most Sundays of the year, as well as courses for Lent and special occasions. The notes are plainly the fruit of much thought, and are in the truest sense practical; illuminated with a creative imagination, they are never fanciful. Apart from the preachers for whom they are primarily intended, they should be valuable for anyone who wishes to deepen his understanding of the Scriptures and to accept their implications. I.E..

EXTRACTS

VITA CHRISTIANA, the bi-monthly review edited by the Dominicans of Florence, devotes its March-April issue to Benedictine spirituality, thus, by a happy coincidence, sharing in the tribute offered by THE LIFE OF THE SPIRIT in March to the Benedictine Order on the occasion of its twelfth centenary. An Editorial stresses the debt owed by the Order of Preachers to its elder brother, for 'the Dominican Order owes to St Benedict its strong monastic structure, by which it is distinguished from the other mendicant orders'. Cardinal Dalla Costa writes on the Rule of St Benedict and the Rule of Life of the Clergy and the Seminaries, and Cavini Enzo draws a valuable parallel between the Rule and the principles of Christian family life. More technical studies include an article by Dom Placid de Meester on St Benedict and Eastern Monachism and a comparison of Liturgical and Private Prayer as provided for in the Benedictine Rule.

LA REVUE D'ASCETIQUE ET DE MYSTIQUE (Toulouse) includes in its current issue the text (edited by Dom Wilmart) of a short treatise by St Aelred on the nature and purpose of monastic profession. This opusculum, which exists only in an Oxford manuscript, is probably