

DIALOGUE AND TRINITY: Conversations on Counselling between a Doctor and a Priest. ed. Marcus Lefebure O P. T & T Clark. 1982, pp 98.

STILL SMALL VOICE. An Introduction to Pastoral Counselling, by Michael Jacobs. SPCK. 1982. pp x + 182. £3.95.

LETTING GO: CARING FOR THE DYING AND BEREAVED by Ian Ainsworth-Smith and Peter Speck. SPCK. 1982. pp xii + 153. £3.95.

INVISIBLE BARRIERS: Pastoral Care with Physically Disabled People by Jessie van Dongen-Garrad. SPCK. 1982. pp xii + 156. £3.95.

Conversations on Counselling is a difficult book to assess. 'Doctor Gregory' talks weightily about counselling with my colleague Marcus Lefebure as gaddy and, afterwards, as editor. Together they elaborate a systematic view of the stages of the counselling process. Furthermore they try to relate their picture to the stages of prayer. I shall not try to summarise their thesis – there is no substitute for the actual reading of the book. The attempt to construct a unified and unifying picture I find very sympathetic. I doubt if it can succeed! But there is a great deal to be learnt from the trying! This is a courageous book to expose its authors so to scrutiny. The dialogue form is a difficult one to bring off. At times it verges on the precious. There are rather too many German words scattered through the text – translated but still an irritant. It is a book for the experienced therapist or counsellor to read and let it resonate with his or her own experience. The perseverance needed is well worthwhile and very necessary because we are few of us comfortable with such attempts to understand the 'faith' which motivates our work in this field. I welcome its insistence that for the counsellor, his work is part of a way of life – that only a thoroughgoing concern to keep himself in such emotional preparedness will suffice. Anything less is to fail his client. Its authors speak from their experience and deserve an attentive, if strenuous, hearing.

THE MIRACLE OF THEISM by J L Mackie, *Oxford University Press*, pp 262 £12.50 and £4.95

This is a challenging and disturbing book. It undertakes a very comprehensive survey of some of the main arguments and stances to be found in religious thought, and especially in Christian apologetics. The presentation of these arguments is

The 'New Library of Pastoral Care' is edited by Derek Blows, Director of the Westminster Pastoral Foundation. It is intended for the pastor, cleric or layman, who works with those to whom faith is important. The aim is to make available insights from the associated fields of e.g. social work, psychotherapy, community development. A welcome enterprise and, to judge from the three volumes to hand, a successful one.

Michael Jacobs in *Still, Small Voice* sets out to write a general introduction to pastoral counselling. Ian Ainsworth-Smith and Peter Speck deal with the care of the dying and the bereaved in *Letting Go*. Both books are sound, balanced, moderate in their opinions, informative. The experienced pastor will learn from them. If I were asked to recommend but a single book on these topics these are the ones I would choose. Both provide good guidance for further reading.

Invisible Barriers by Jessie van Dongen-Garrad deals with the pastoral care of the physically disabled. This is a more specialised area of work less familiar to most pastors. I found it helpful and challenging of my own assumptions about the physically disabled. It is a good, objective book. I would have liked a chapter going into some depth about the helper's feelings and reactions when working with disabled people.

PIERS LINLEY O P

extremely fair and comment upon them, although not always new, marshalls effectively the main objections to theism as it is often presented. As far as the discussion goes, it is difficult not to concede the sceptical case to Mr Mackie. The snag, and