

work, as of Mrs Woolf's, is a lack of faith'. And when we close the book we realize that the only author for whom Mr Turnell has unqualified admiration is Chaucer, secure in the medieval synthesis. I yield to no-one in my admiration of Chaucer, but I question the usefulness of supposing that Lawrence, Woolf and Forster would have been better writers, and Mauriac and Greene better Catholic writers, if the Renaissance and the Reformation had not happened. For these events *did* happen, and these writers are among the best we have. The human condition they study is our condition, and it is in assessing the success with which they articulate their insights into this condition, rather than in assessing the orthodoxy of these insights, that the literary critic will be most usefully employed.

DAVID LODGE

FAMILY PLANNING AND MODERN PROBLEMS, by Stanislas de Lestapis, S.J.; translated by R. F. Trevett; Burns and Oates; 30s.

The translation of Fr Lestapis' book has been an eagerly awaited event. He is one of the foremost figures in Catholic circles who have occupied themselves with the study of family issues and is professor of sociology at the *Institut Social de l'Action Populaire* in Paris. The work is divided into four sections. The first surveys the attitude to contraception amongst the main religious communities, the second answers some of the contentions made on its behalf, the third develops the position of the Church and the fourth considers the international implications of the 'population problem'.

The publishers introduce the book as offering the most complete and authoritative statement available of the Catholic position. The range of material, the thorough and wide grasp of the literature and the broad vision of the author certainly give adequate testimony to this claim. Yet in his attempt to destroy the claims and philosophy of contraception in favour of the natural and supernatural case for procreation, some sweeping generalizations are made which detract from and occasionally damage his cause. Thus on page 74 he sets out the changes which in his opinion would result from a contraceptive civilization. Amongst these he includes a premature sclerosis and a decline into spiritual old age of nations, a fixation of the sexual function at its 'adolescent' stage, repression of the maternal instinct, a decreased resistance to 'sexual inversion', a decline of masculinity amongst men and of femininity amongst women, an increasing toleration of homosexuality as well as imputing partial responsibility for the decline in the level of mental health, the failure of parents in their task as educators and the boredom of a civilization entirely preoccupied with a culture based on comfort and sexual satisfaction. The case made for such conclusions falls very much short of any convincing level. Although the principle of multiple causality is acknowledged it is curiously ignored in the development of these themes. Also the frequent excursions in the psychological field are often of very doubtful validity.

Fr Lestapis' treatment of the rational and doctrinal basis of the Church's attitude to contraception is comprehensive, clear and precise. This section too includes an excellent development of the concept of periodic abstinence versus contraception and the use of the former as a means of furthering and deepening the spiritual life of the spouses. One of the disappointments of this book is the meagre attention accorded to the sexual act other than in terms of its procreative potential. While Catholic thought has clearly established the primary and secondary aims of marriage it has consistently ignored the development of the words of St Paul 'For this shall man leave father and mother and shall cleave to his wife and the two shall be one flesh. The mystery here is great indeed. I mean in reference to Christ and the Church'. The mystery is indeed great, and one of the urgent contemporary tasks facing the Christian mind is its further exploration. If love is the key to the Mystical Body, then surely the sexual act has a vast store of unexplored potential.

The final section which deals with the international problems of overpopulation shows a masterly display of expert sociological knowledge thoroughly impregnated and inspired by Christian principles. Although there is some unevenness and at times excessive zeal this book has no rival and is fortunate in having the rare distinction of a translation which does it justice.

J. DOMINIAN

PROBLEMS IN PSYCHO-ANALYSIS: A SYMPOSIUM; Burns and Oates; 30s.

It requires much concentration to take in the views of thirteen different authors giving their views on psycho-analysis and its offshoots. The temperament and styles are so different that I found a great deal of concentration, and a fair knowledge of the Freudian ethos, essential to the evaluation of the different contributions. Added to this, the French language, however well translated, has its own idiom, its peculiar irony sometimes, and its condensation. It should be said however that some of the authors are Swiss, and one at least Austrian. There is a neat Preface, but we are not told by whom, or who was the Editor.

Picking out some individual contributions may give some idea as to what the book is about and the kind of approach to these 'problems'. First we might consider the chapter by Professor Baudoin of Geneva, on 'Symbolic Behaviour and the Metamorphosis of Instinct'. He mentions the insufficiency of the old views about association, and the importance of emotion as a factor in the association of ideas. He then deals with the transformation and displacement of instinct and emotion, which Freud sought to clarify (it is unfortunate that the word 'transference' has been used in translation since it has such a specific connotation in Freudian terminology). The idea of displacement is also applied to symbolism.

No doubt but that symbolism is a key notion in our day, and it is discussed in the chapter by Professor Caruso (Director of the Vienna Circle for Depth Psychology) entitled 'Towards a Symbolic Knowledge of the Human Person'.