

relationships based on more or less temporal and historical accidents. It is in this sphere that the most difficult problems arise and that the greatest scandals occur. Mgr Journet deals in detail with all the major problems and his treatment of them is both subtle and convincing; but it needs to be studied at length, if the whole problem is to be properly understood.

The whole work is marked by great delicacy of thought and it requires intensive consideration, but it is animated throughout with a very deep sense of the supernatural mystery of the Church. Problems of detail are never allowed to obscure the great reality of the Church as the Mystical Body of Christ, and the reader is never allowed to forget that the Church is the central mystery of existence which calls into play all our energies both of mind and will, if we are to understand her nature and live by her life.

BEDE GRIFFITHS, O.S.B.

COLLINGRIDGE. By J. B. Dockery, O.F.M. (Johns; 25s.)

All too little detailed work has been done on the later Vicars-Apostolic, and this study of one of them is a welcome addition. Bishop Collingridge's life (1757-1829) spanned the period that saw the final decline of the Church in England, the suppression of the Society of Jesus, and the dwindling, almost to extinction, of the Franciscans and Dominicans. It is a period depressing almost beyond endurance after the heroic days of the martyrs, and the only comfort to be derived from these pages is the thought of how far we have progressed since Collingridge died in the darkest hour before the dawn. Fr Dockery has searched everywhere for his materials, and if his narrative lacks much of the excitement and colour of the preceding century it is no fault of his. We who have seen the dawn find it hard to account for the testiness, the disunity and the jealousies that made progress impossible. It is easy to be brave and lighthearted when the battle has been won. The prospect before a Vicar-Apostolic in 1800 was not a happy one. The Catholics had dwindled to something like 60,000. Many of the families of the old aristocracy, who had proved so valiant a century before, had succumbed, and the few that remained steadfast were exhausted financially. There was an alarming shortage of priests, and apart from the negligible harvest of converts, the increase in numbers came from the Irish immigrants who were in desperate straits. The Western District over which Collingridge ruled was more desolate than the others, and the problem of finding and supporting priests for this vast area gave him the greatest anxiety. This part of the book is the most important, but there is much besides. Early years at Douai, work in London, the Franciscan school at Baddesley Clinton, and the struggles

of the English Friars Minor, of which he was at one time Provincial, are some of the topics touched upon in this full-length and fully documented study. The publishers, who have already given us *Stonor* and *Vaux of Harrowden*, have once again had the courage to venture on a specialist book, with a dozen full-page illustrations, worthily produced, and at a reasonable price.

G.A.

PADRE PIO. By Malachy Gerard Carroll. (Mercier Press; 3s. 6d.)

As we apparently must have scores of books on stigmatics, it is at least desirable that they should be sane and free from superstitious extravagance. The present little volume on Padre Pio fully comes up to this requirement. For once the publishers' blurb is right; the author really does give 'a sane and balanced account' of his subject. Relying on unimpeachable authorities such as Father Thurston and Father Martin-dale, he deals with the various phenomena, stigmatization, the 'odour of sanctity' and bilocation, while also stressing Padre Pio's important work as a confessor, intent on bringing souls back to God. It is a pity, however, that an otherwise commendable book should be marred by an incredibly bad style; hence we could not help regretting that 'an event took place which was to be the beginning of the shouting of his name on the four winds of heaven', and that 'the limelight of pious enthusiasm should come on him', seeing it produced a book written in such English!

H.C.G.

THE LIFE AND MINISTRY OF JESUS. By Vincent Taylor, D.D. (Macmillan; 12s. 6d.)

THE MISSION AND ACHIEVEMENT OF JESUS. By Reginald H. Fuller. Studies in Biblical Theology No. 12. (S.C.M. Press; 8s.)

LIFE IN CHRIST. By Theo Preiss. Studies in Biblical Theology No. 13. (S.C.M. Press; 7s.)

Before the canonical Gospels, the written sources—two? three? four? And before the written sources, the oral tradition and the communities, Aramaic and Hellenistic—moulding? inventing? creating? And before the communities, the person, life and teaching of Jesus—recoverable? or an 'x' which must be presupposed but cannot be known? Dr Taylor and Mr Fuller are both opposed to the extreme development of Form Criticism. The former takes as the basis for his life of Jesus the Marcan outline, for Mark 'is a writing of first-rate historical importance', a conclusion dependent on the findings of his commentary on that Gospel. The present book is a sequel to *The Name of Jesus*, in which Dr Taylor deduced something of the developmen