

The second volume considers more in detail the various states of the mystical life, in accordance with the accepted divisions. This part should prove particularly useful to spiritual directors, as it furnishes them with psychological as well as theological explanations of the passive purifications of the senses and the spirit, with discussions as to their causes, signs and effects, enabling them thus to recognise the conditions of individual souls who may be entrusted to their care and guidance.

In defining the passive purifications as phases of the spiritual life marking periods of transition from the Purgative to the Illuminative Way, and from the Illuminative to the Unitive Way, we note a return to the teaching of St. John of the Cross, St. Catherine of Siena, Ruysbroeck and others. The positive aspect, too, of these states is emphasised, as being characterised by a more ardent desire for God, indicating the entry into a new spiritual life, which is destined ever to increase and to become more vigorous.

There are illuminating chapters on the Priesthood of Christ, and His Kingship, and others on Our Lady and St. Joseph, the model of the hidden life. Several pages also are dedicated to the theology of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, and the manner is suggested in which the faithful should be united by a personal oblation of themselves to the Victim Who is offered.

We feel sure that this work will be of the greatest value not only to the director of souls but likewise to the faithful who are desirous of knowing the way of Christian perfection. Further it should serve the student as a very useful introduction to the classical writers on Mysticism, whose works are freely cited and commented on throughout.

We venture to think that a general index would have been greatly appreciated.

A.F.

GERARD MANLEY HOPKINS. By G. F. Lahey, S.J. (Oxford University Press ; 7/6.)

The author somewhat disarms criticism by calling his book 'a little study,' and if the design of such a work be to whet the appetite and prepare readers for a fuller biography, then Fr. Lahey has succeeded in his purpose. For such a book is tantalising. It is made up of a series of papers dealing with different aspects of Hopkins' life and genius, such as, 'Hopkins and Newman,' 'The Artist,' 'The Man.' This arrangement makes the book disconnected ; there is a want of unity in its conception that gives the impression of a hastily written work. Fr. Gerard

## *Blackfriars*

Hopkins' varied, complex and beautiful genius deserves a more worthy memorial, and it is to be hoped that such a memorial will be given us in the near future.

His poetry has already received justice from one eminently fitted for the task but that one could not sympathise with his religious beliefs. This was a serious drawback, for though Hopkins' spirit expressed itself in many forms, it was the same spirit. The spirit of the Priest was the spirit of the Poet. This book, seeing that it is by a fellow Jesuit, does not fail in that comprehension.

There seems, judging from the extracts given by Fr. Lahey, abundant material, letters and diaries, for a larger work. Those letters, so exquisite in their observation, full of a delicate, refined feeling, will probably be appreciated by many to whom Hopkins' poetry and prose presents insuperable difficulties. One of the most beautiful letters in this book is a letter to Newman, whose own delicate feeling must indeed have responded and valued this same expression in another.

For the student of rhythm Fr. Lahey has given a chapter on 'Hopkins' craftsmanship.' He truly says of this chapter that 'the fundamentals of ordinary prosody are pre-supposed.' The vexed subject of rhythm is a large one, and unless very lucidly stated a vague one.

But many will be grateful to Fr. Lahey for his book. That Fr. Hopkins should remain unknown to those who perhaps would not read his poetry, even if they had heard of it, is lamentable. There are never enough idealists. The story of their heroic sacrifices and courage in the face of difficulties both from within and without will never fail to stir the heart. Hopkins fought with courage that most difficult foe of all, his own sensitive, nerve-wracked temperament.

A.I.D.

THE THEOLOGY OF THE NEW TESTAMENT. By Fr. Lemonnyer, O.P. Translated by the Rev. W. A. Spence, M.A. (Sands & Co.; 3/6.)

This little book cannot but be pleasing to the disciples of Père Lagrange, for it is in great part drawn from his Gospel commentaries and other works. Here in small compass they will find clear and scholarly discussions of the main theological questions of the New Testament; questions which are the basis of all our theology. A study of it as patient and painstaking as that which produced this work will have for its reward the presentation of the New Testament as a systematic unity from the