

prejudice and introducing them, in a homely and human way, to the wonder of the Catholic Church and to the high ideal of holiness that is hers; among converts, by encouraging them on their hard journey and saving them from many misunderstandings; among Catholics, by deepening their love of the Faith and by helping many of them to determine their vocation to the contemplative life, so necessary for society in these times.

BRUNO WALKER, O.C.R.

VISION OF PERU. By Violet Clifton. (Duckworth; 21s.)

This fascinating story of the early history of Peru was, I believe, originally designed to be a biography of a mulatto slave boy who became a Dominican lay brother and is likely to become in the near future Saint Martin of Porres. But the biography grew to a far greater stature nourished by Mrs Clifton's own profound experience of the country as well as her researches into its ancient history. The result is the model of what every life of a saint should be if it were only possible. For she shows Martin as part of the life of a people and the existence of a place. Hagiography so easily isolates the object of its study so that the saint becomes a statue on a pedestal instead of a man who grew up among a people with a peculiar heritage and an immediate history. With other saints this concrete treatment is practically impossible because, at least in Europe, the history is so extravagantly varied and there are so many other saints, contemporaneous or approximately so, that it is beyond human contrivance to make them really living and to preserve them from their pedestal of isolation. But in South America Martin was born in the age of tradition when the Incas were disappearing and the Spaniards taking over everything. Moreover his father was a Spaniard, his mother an African slave; and so Mrs Clifton could see the whole history of that period and place somehow turning round in Martin. 'In this storm-coloured, this cloud-coloured one, three Continents took share because, in America, the lust of Europe quickened the womb of Africa, and so was born the son of an enslaved, and of a conquering race.' And the only other saint of that time and place was Rose of Lima, also a Dominican, who appears equally concrete and in her true setting. This book cannot therefore be called a life of Martin or Rose, but is indeed a Vision focussed on those two figures yet embracing an infinite variety in the reality that was and is Peru.

CONRAD PEPLER, O.P.

DIE GESCHICHTE UND GEBETSSCHULE DES ROSENKRANZES.

DER ROSENKRANZ UND DAS MENSCHENLEBEN.

Both by Franz Michel William. (Herder; Vienna.)

'The Rosary', says the author of these two attractive books, may be compared with a plant that migrates and grows. On the British Isles this spiritual rose bush springs up in luxurious green