

glad to see that Mr. Lewis defends the orthodoxy of Milton against Professor Saurat by showing that on almost every point he follows St. Augustine and Catholic tradition. The one great exception is in the matter of the angels, where Milton apparently held the opinion of the seventeenth century Platonists that the angels possessed subtle aerial bodies which were capable among other things of digesting food (cf. *Paradise Lost*, v. 435).

But in the character of Satan Milton once again returns to tradition, and Mr. Lewis is most successful in exploding the myth that Satan is Milton's hero, and in showing how truly diabolical he is. In the same way he shows how Adam and Eve must be seen in the light of Christian tradition if the profound psychology of their fall is to be understood. There can be no doubt that if this point of view is accepted—and whether it is right or wrong it is Milton's own point of view—and the reader will surrender to the 'incantation' of its verse, he will find in *Paradise Lost* an education in Christian thought and feeling such as no poet, after Dante, can give.

BEDE GRIFFITHS, O.S.B.

THE BISHOP OF MUNSTER AND THE NAZIS. By Patrick Smith. (Burns Oates; 2s.)

No one who has been in close touch with German Catholicism during recent years will be surprised at the fiery indignation, the unqualified denunciation of the Nazi régime which breathes through the three sermons here published. The unthinking members of the 'Kill off every German' school will not be convinced of course; but the great majority of Englishmen who, seeing only the façade of united enthusiasm for Hitler which surrounds public life in Germany, are yet unwilling to believe that all the people of a great nation could sink to such depths, will find much in this book which will suggest an answer to the most immediate of post-war problems. The spontaneous cheers of the Bishop of Münster's congregation show that, even in war-time Germany, there are many who seek a higher good than the material enslavement of others. Mr. Smith deserves thanks for his excellent translation, Messrs. Burns and Oates for the publication of the book at a price which none will find difficult.

C.B.

THE PRIEST'S PRAYER BOOK. A Handbook to the Breviary. By Christopher J. Wilmot, S.J. (Burns, Oates; 7s. 6d.)

A priest's life is necessarily liturgical and the Mass and the Divine Office should be the main sources of his spiritual life. Too often the latter is not, and so any book that helps a priest to discover the riches of the Breviary is to be welcomed. Fr. Wilmot provides two essentials: information about the subject of the psalm and (praise be) a *corrected* translation. A glance at these alone will be en-

lightening. In each psalm, or part of a psalm, he finds material for meditations upon the whole of the priestly life. They are full of holy wisdom, frank, sometimes trenchant, always to the point. If they wander far from the subject-matter of the psalm, that is the price to be paid for such treatment. Perhaps, too, there are one or two Old Wives' saws that might have been omitted and in the next edition we hope the Latin text will be treated more respectfully by the printers.

Naturally in a book of this size, only the Sunday psalms could be treated, but there is enough here to be grateful for. For once, we are happy to say, this is a book that can in no way be recommended to the laity. It is a book by a priest, a wise old priest, written for his brother-priests.

J. D. CRICHTON.

VANISHING HOMESTEADS. By Rev. E. Schmiedler, O.S.B., Ph.D.

THE POPE AND CHRISTIAN CITIZENSHIP. By Rev. F. J. Boland, C.S.C.

DESIGNS FOR SOCIAL ACTION. By Rev. J. M. Hayes, S.T.D.

(N.C.W.C., 1312 Massachusetts Avenue NW, Washington, D.C.;
5 cents each.)

Fr. Schmiedler, leader of the Catholic Rural Life movement in the U.S.A., takes a pessimistic view of the growth of latifundia and of the mechanisation of farms. Apparently the 'corporation' technique is beginning to manifest itself in farming, and it precipitates two interlocking problems: how to preserve the small homestead, and how to keep up the rural population. The author's suggestion of buying machinery by farmers' co-operatives should go a long way to solving the first problem but can scarcely be expected to ameliorate the second.

The second of the pamphlets is a handy compilation of papal dicta on citizenship from Leo XIII to Pius XII. Not least in value is the index of no less than two hundred items. Fr. Hayes provides an interesting survey of such citizenship in action, the methods used by Catholics in the U.S.A. to come to grips with the social problem. It would seem that Dorothy Day's *Catholic Worker* is outside the pale because it is not mentioned.

J.F.

REFLECTIONS OF THE ISLE OF BARRA. By Donald Buchanan. (Sands,
7s. 6d.)

Had the author kept to description of life in Barra as it was sixty years ago and as it is now, this would have been a very good book. In his pages on the island and its people, Dr. Buchanan is refreshingly candid, and free from the poetic prose and sticky sentiment which mark so many books about the Highlands. He does not minimise, for example, the demoralising effect which the 'dole'