

## Book Reviews

Thomism with the New Learning rather than to explore the philosophical complications of St. Thomas's system. As he himself says at the beginning of his course, 'where there is no difficulty we pass on, but where there is, there we plant both feet.' There can be no doubt as to which is the easier to read, Vitoria or Cajetan. But this does not mean that Vitoria suffers from the fatal facility of some later scholastics—a billowy style, considerable information, and little else. There is nothing fatty about him. He is vigorous and sinewy; firm, decided, to the point. He has a way of heckling himself, of interjecting sharp difficulties, that makes his style uncommonly alive. The doctrinal value of this commentary is of the highest. The student who uses it will not be asked to enter into the intricacies of scholasticism, but at the same time he will know that he is reading a Thomist classic. No theological library should lack it.

T.G.

EL MAESTRO FRAY PEDRO DE SOTO, O.P. Y LAS CONTROVERSIAS POLITICO-TEOLÓGICAS EN EL SIGLO XVI. Vol. I; Actuación Politico-religioso de Soto. By Venancio de Carro, O.P. (Pp. 400; 18 pesetas).

Peter de Soto was both a theologian and a statesman. It is under this latter aspect that Fr. de Carro studies him in this well-documented volume. He first sketches out the general conditions in Spain at the dawn of the sixteenth century, then proceeds to the career of Peter de Soto, how he became a religious, and rose to be Vicar-General of the Spanish Dominicans and confessor of the Emperor Charles V. The state of the Church in Germany demanded men of sanctity and learning. De Soto was sent to Germany to write and preach against the Lutherans. He was the *alter fundator* of the University of Dillingen. Summoned to England in 1555 at the invitation of Cardinal Pole, who 'loved him dearly' and considered him 'one of the greatest theologians of his acquaintance,' Peter 'Sotho' taught theology at Oxford, where other Spanish Dominicans as well—de Villagarcía, de Sotomajor, Miranda—were concerned in an abortive attempt to revive Catholic studies. Recalled to Spain, he was appointed imperial and papal theologian at the Council of Trent, in which he intervened with marked effect. This, in the briefest outline, is the life of Peter de Soto. Despite some lapses from impersonality, and some misprints in the footnotes, we congratulate Fr. de Carro on his important contribution to Reformation history. A scholarly work, clearly the fruit of much research.

H.M.