

sets out from the notion of love as essentially sacrificial, and the other which defines love as the spirit which seeks the community of all. He seems to show a preference for the latter view as more soundly based and defensible. This latter view seems very near to our own Thomist view of the proper relation between love and social justice. The author, however, is not very convincing when he tries to distinguish between 'a rational system of principles' and 'the ordered will of God' as a basis of justice. If God's will is 'ordered', how is it other than 'in accordance with reason'? Theologians of this school are so existentialist in their ethics that they seem terrified of admitting that there are any absolute norms of conduct, and especially that, if any be found, they be called 'rational'.

I do not really think this volume will be very helpful to the average layman to get a fair view of theological thought; though it may be useful for a Protestant of the Tillich school as fit glasses through which to see 'Christianity' where all Christian dogma has been excluded.

H. FRANCIS DAVIS

NOTICES

THE INTRODUCTION TO THE DEVOUT LIFE of St Francis de Sales appears in a convenient pocket edition, translated by Mgr John K. Ryan (Longmans, 7s. 6d.). The version is based on the traditional translations of John Yaworth and the English priests of Tournai, and as such must be regarded as a compromise between the antique and the colloquial. But it is valuable to have this perennial classic available in so convenient a form.

THE MEDITATIONS AND DEVOTIONS of Cardinal Newman have also been republished by Longmans in the same format and at the same price. Father Henry Tristram has written an introduction for this edition and he does well to emphasise the 'great simplicity and naturalness' of the 'Meditations' which have too long been out of the reach of a new generation, for whom Newman's generosity of mind and strength of style will make a living appeal.

ASPECTS OF BUDDHISM (Sheed and Ward, 12s. 6d.) is a translation of Père de Lubac's introduction to Buddhist spirituality, of which an extended review, by Fr Victor White, O.P., appeared in these columns in December, 1951.

THE CATHOLIC DIGEST OMNIBUS (W. H. Allen, 17s. 6d.) contains a representative selection from the popular American magazine over the last fifteen years. The authors range from Bernanos to Thomas Merton, and to those who like their intellectual diet to be pre-digested it should be acceptable.

GUIDE TO THE BIBLE (Sands, 3s. 6d.) is a useful introduction to the contents of the Bible drawn up by the Benedictines of Maredsous. In less than a hundred pages it provides the sort of guide which the reader who is unprepared for larger works of scholarship will find helpful.

OFF THE RECORD (Sheed and Ward, 10s. 6d.) is yet another gleaning from Mgr Ronald Knox's abundant harvest. This time he prints copies of letters he has sent in answer to various correspondents. These deal with the usual apologetic difficulties with his customary clarity and ease of style. But it is to be questioned whether in fact they add up to a book. They are certainly individually readable.

HOUSE OF COURAGE, by William J. Heaney (Clonmore and Reynolds, 9s. 6d.), is a simple and engaging account of life in a sanatorium, which in recounting the author's own recovery from tuberculosis should give fresh hope to all who suffer from the disease. Apart from the human interest of his story, Mr Heaney has much that is interesting to say of modern methods of treatment and rehabilitation.

THE LIFE OF MÈRE ANNE-MARIE JAVOUHEY, by Fr C. C. Martindale, S.J. (Longmans, 8s. 6d.), is the story of the foundress of the Congregation of St Joseph of Cluny, told with all the vigour and sympathy that have come to be synonymous with Fr Martindale's writing over so many years. Mère Javouhey began her work for Christian education during the turmoil of the French Revolution and founded her congregation to continue it, especially abroad and among emancipated slaves. It is a heroic record, recalled with the vivid understanding that makes it live.

NORTHERN ITALY (Blue Guides; Ernest Benn, 30s.) now appears in a completely new edition, well up to the standard of this famous series and in every respect a practical and well-arranged guide to a land that is prodigal in all that the tourist seeks. Full account has been taken of the immense changes since the last edition appeared in 1937. The numerous street-plans are accurate and there is a most useful atlas of sixteen pages at the end. There could be no better Christmas present for the lover of Italy, whether for recollection or anticipation.

THE CATHOLIC BEDSIDE BOOK (Hulton Press, 15s.), under the general editorship of B. C. L. Keelan, presents a summary of Catholic doctrine by Fr C. C. Martindale and an assortment of texts on papal teaching, Church history, liturgy and the arts. There are numerous illustrations in colour and black-and-white, and this well-produced anthology should be a first choice among Christmas presents.