

But an erroneous path may be inevitable if it is dictated by tragic necessity inherent in the nature of things. A line of conduct involving disastrous and sometimes fatal consequences may be morally binding. This is the Christian tragedy for which there is no solution within the categories of human thought and feeling' (p. 87).

I have dwelt on the dark side of this work precisely because the author's quality and knowledge make it a very attractive book. I have fears that some Catholics may let themselves be taken in by a series of formulae which have the appearance of being sympathetic and familiar, and strike a note which sounds friendly and yet uncompromising. Professor Zander has in fact conceded too much to ecumenism; from a desire to justify what willy-nilly results in compromise, he seems to us to have let go of what is essential in Orthodox intransigence. What the Catholic position on the subject is, can be adequately gathered from the numerous citations he has made from Catholic writers. Whatever Professor Zander may think of it, we shall not cease to pray and do all in our power that the position expressed in a text of Mgr Charrière (to which he gives a sense quite different from what the author intends, pp. 112—113) may by that steadfastness which is rooted in its truth, ever become more prevalent, better known and to a further extent acknowledged by all as 'catholic', that is to say 'universal'. HENRI DE RIEDMATTEN, O.P.

**THE ANGLICAN DILEMMA.** By the Right Hon. Sir Henry Slesser, P.C. (Hutchinson; 12s. 6d.)

The interest in this little book is indicated by these words from the introduction: 'it represents the conclusions at which I have arrived after careful and protracted study whether a convinced Catholic can in conscience remain within the Anglican communion'. From the time of the Oxford Movement this has been the crucial question for Anglicanism. It is answered by the reflection and information contained in this book, and it is the only possible answer once full light has been shed on the notion of 'catholicity'. But it is precisely to this depth that one must penetrate to judge the apparently contradictory position of so many High Church men; by 'catholic' we do not understand the same thing, and so the illogical conclusion is less flagrant than one might suppose, and the way towards the full understanding of our position less obvious. For the rest, this little book can do much to enlighten certain aspects of the problem. It is a moving testimony to an attitude and an itinerary begun by Newman, which has brought to the Church so many chosen souls. H.R.

**THE BOOK OF THE SAVIOUR.** Assembled by F. J. Sheed. (Sheed and Ward; 18s.)

Book-buying being as expensive as it is today, Messrs Sheed and Ward do very well to ensure that for a small sum readers may at least sample

many of the admirable works they have published. The benefit is the greater, of course, when the subject of the assembled articles is the unique one here chosen. As Christians and Catholics we all know that we should try to grow in the knowledge of Christ—whether we do try is another matter. But here at least is a new chance, an opportunity of seeing him, and matters pertaining to him, through the eyes of many—more than forty authors, in fact—who in one way or another may be able to enlighten us. The wide variety of standpoints and styles of treatment should please those especially who can seldom find a spiritual book that suits them. The two main ways by which we can seek to enlarge our knowledge of Christ—the study of his earthly life and of his life in his Mystical Body, the Church—are each well provided for. The first three of four sections into which the anthology is divided are concerned with our Lord's human life until Pentecost, while the last one continues the story 'To the end of Time'.

The book is a companion to *The Mary Book* published two years ago, and is very like it. It has however the further advantage of some theological appendices, taken from Mr Sheed's *Theology and Sanity*, which supply a useful framework. M.H.

LA PAUVRETE. Collection 'Problèmes de la Religions d'aujourd'hui'. (Cerf; Blackfriars; n.p.)

The conference convened by the Editor of *La Vie Spirituelle* to consider the very real problems of Religious Sisters in France has recently discussed the question of Chastity and the substance of their discussion will appear in book form next year. The present volume contains the papers of last year's discussion on the vow of Poverty. It would have been easy to be carried away with enthusiasm for such a Christian subject. But Père Ple, the Editor, saw the danger of such general treatment, in view of the fact that it is in the practice of poverty that the religious is most directly implicated in the economic and social changes in the world around. This is particularly true today with the advent of Marxism and the difficulties regarding capitalism. So the volume treats not only of the evangelical and monastic call to 'sell all and follow Christ', but also of canonical and economic matters concerned with the vow. Procurators may benefit in particular, as well as superiors, by these pages; and those who realise the importance of the constitution *Sponsa Christi* will find here useful applications of it to the present situation of religious sisters. The volume will appear in an English translation in 1953. C.P.

THE ASCENT TO TRUTH. By Thomas Merton. (Hollis and Carter; 18s.)

In these days, when even Catholics are in danger of being infected with indifference and materialism, any book that will help us to get back to our own spiritual past, that will introduce us again to the great doctors of