

ence, all based on Catholic principles. This demands the sympathy and understanding of the priest. Fr. Murphy has only outlined the problem and its remedy, but though we should not agree with every detail of his method he does start us thinking in the right way. Unhappily the style is not the best. We may none of us forget that words—the right word, the vivid word, the cogent word, the choice word—are the channels of God's truth and do not always to-day receive the consideration they demand. In this book the ideas are vital, the problem is a living one, and exciting, too; but we have to dig to find these things; they do not glow and sparkle on the page of print as they should. And that is a great pity.

GERARD MEATH, O.P.

THE CHURCH LATIN SIMPLIFIED. The Proper of the Mass for the Sundays of Advent, Christmas and the Sunday in the Octave of Christmas. (The Newman Bookshop, Oxford; 3d.).

These leaflets aim at helping the person who has followed an elementary course of Church Latin and has now not a great deal of time to spend in following it up. The system is a good one: parallel columns of Latin and English word for word, accompanied on the opposite page by complete texts of the Proper in both Latin and English. The translation, too, is serviceable: homely, is an epithet which springs to the mind. It is possible to dispute any kind of translation of scripture, and that is not a point to be considered here. Certain it is that these leaflets make Latin intelligible to a wider circle than it has been up to now, but, without wishing to discourage, one may legitimately wonder whether this or anything else will directly make Latin intelligible to the whole circle, that is, to all the Catholics in England. But that is not the aim of these leaflets; it is their ambition "to help every Catholic who is able to *read and to think*"; but there are many Catholics who cannot read and more still who cannot think. We want a technique which will start still further back and make them think.

GERARD MEATH, O.P.

THE REED OF GOD. By Caryll Houselander. (Sheed & Ward; 6s.).

This is a book which will be helpful at moments when we need something to inspire us to meditate and pray. The author gives us the fruit of her contemplation of the Mysteries of Our Lady's life. The Virgin, receptive of the divine spirit through her *fiat*, conceiving and bearing the Word of God, is the universal model of Christiar life. By contemplating these Mysteries we learn how the Incarnation is to be realised again in and through us. With much energy and sense the chief events of Our Lady's life and her response to them are related to our everyday life. While we think the great Scriptural themes which inspire the writer's thought are weakened in the presentation, nevertheless, this is a most praiseworthy attempt to relate the realities typified by

Our Lady to our daily experience. We hope Miss Houselander will develop a more sustained and concentrated manner of thought and presentation. D.M.

THE MASS AND OFFICE FOR THE FEAST OF B.V.M. MEDIATRIX OF ALL GRACES. English translation edited with an introduction by John Hennig, Ph.D. (Dublin, James Duffy; 2s. 6d.).

The appeal of this book might be wider if it is accepted as a manual of devotional prayers rather than a liturgical text in the strict sense. To achieve its second purpose—promoting the knowledge of the Church's teaching on the universal mediation of Mary—a simple outline of this doctrine would have helped, for not everyone can pick out dogma from liturgical texts with any assurance. One can only visualise a limited public for a work of this sort. Yet it is only fair to say that what has been done has been done well, in spite of a few passages such as "I have stretched out my branches as the turpentine tree"; one only doubts to what extent it was worth while.

GERARD MEATH, O.P.

LES BONTÉS DE MARIE. Père Couture, O.P. (Les Editions du Lévrier; \$1.00).

This is the fourth volume of a series on the same subject compiled by Père Couture during the forty-five years of his apostolic career. It contains the account of sixty remarkable and authentic instances of Our Lady's intercession obtained chiefly through the medium of the Miraculous Medal. The unquestioning faith of the narrator becomes infectious through the enthusiasm and humour with which he tells his story and hard-headed indeed would be the reader who would qualify as mere "coincidence" even the least evidently miraculous of Our Lady's acts of kindness.

"Les Bontés de Marie" is "spirituel" in both senses of the word. "Causa nostrae laetitiae" must often have smiled approvingly on the eloquent preacher who could speak of her with such happy persuasiveness.

Incidentally the book would make an excellent commentary on the Bull for the definition of the doctrine of Our Lady's Immaculate Conception. S.M.D.

A HEROINE OF THE MISSION FIELD. By Dom Romanus Rios, O.S.B. (George Gill & Sons, London; 5s.).

"She never could do things by halves". These words aptly sum up the character of its subject. Mother Mary of the Heart of Jesus gave herself to God, to her spiritual daughters, to the missions, not by halves, but wholly. She made a holocaust of her life, and she was able to accomplish very big things because she so well understood the balance between contemplation and action in the Religious life.