

NOTICES

JOY IN BELIEVING. By Vincent McNabb, O.P. (Burns Oates; 5s.)

This is a book of sermons for most Sundays and some Feasts during the year; but it is not a handbook of sermons for preachers. It is a verbatim (though obviously not always complete) report of discourses delivered at Leicester between 1908 and 1914 when Fr. Vincent was in the prime of his still intensely vigorous intellectual life. One will therefore expect to find rich yet wholesome food for thought, and will not be disappointed. Moreover, there will be found practical guidance and help in the spiritual life and, as always with this preacher, a profound appreciation of the inexhaustible significance of the Incarnation. This volume will be found to be excellent for spiritual reading and as an aid to meditation.

H.J.C.

LE DIEU DES CHRÉTIENS. By Abbé Felix Klein. (Editions Spes; 18 frs.)

An admirable book giving to the faithful a deeper understanding of God in the light of reason and faith. Assuredly the truths of faith are not intended by God to remain at their catechism stage as so often happens, nor can it be expected that the whole body of revealed reality is capable of elucidation in an occasional sermon, but much must be left to individual enquiry. Reason by the aid of God can lead to faith, and by way of recompense faith which seeks for understanding is the confirmation of what has been learnt by human effort. Divine mysteries though not learnt by reason may be grasped more completely when unfolded before the mind. Though beyond comprehension they are not so indistinct in outline as to be unintelligible to us. In the chapter treating of God as known by reason alone, the author seems needlessly unhelpful in quoting without further comment Fénelon who is plainly Cartesian in thought. The remainder of the book gives full treatment to the mystery of the Blessed Trinity, and is reduced to sufficiently popular form.

A.F.

AN INTRODUCTION TO THE IGNATIAN EXERCISES. By Hubert S. Box, B.D., Ph.D. (S.P.C.K.; 3s. 6d.)

This is a general account and analysis of a classical textbook for retreat conductors, and is not meant to replace such fuller commentaries on the *Spiritual Exercises* as those by Rickaby,

Longridge and Ambruzzi. It will be useful to the general reader who would learn about one of the most powerful impulses of organized spirituality, and profitable to those who would deliberately regulate their lives solely with a view to God and salvation; always remembering the remark of St. Ignatius, that the artisan regards with indifference the tools in his workshop, he takes into consideration their usefulness rather than the materials of which they are made, and makes use of them or casts them aside, just as he finds them suitable or otherwise for the purpose of his trade.

T.G.

THE UNBROKEN HEART. By Robert Speaight. (Cassell; 7s. 6d.)

The sensitivity which was one of the outstanding qualities of Mr. Speaight's previous novel is again very apparent here. The story concerns the spiritual evolution of a boy who, inheriting a streak of insanity, develops a dangerous delusion, is treated by a psycho-therapist, falls in love, meets tragedy, and ultimately finds himself through it. The action takes place first in Ireland, later in Provence. The book is uneven. There are incidental *longueurs* in the narrative. The relationships and tensions between the characters—these are the substance of the book—are sometimes extremely well done, but elsewhere leave the reader dissatisfied: Mr. Speaight's delicacy of touch seems to become so rarefied that a situation dissolves into thin air before the reader can lay hold upon it. And the same thing is true, particularly, of the end of the tale; which loses plausibility because it appears so remote from the stridencies and the struggle of real life. Signor Petti may be a saint, as he is certainly, through his music at least, a mystic; but the Man who was more than a saint had not this placidity in face of tragedy. These strictures are not intended to mean that the book is not worth reading; very far from it: it is a book to be read, not only for the interest of the story, but for the distinction, the finesse, of mind and of style which are apparent in its pages.

G.V.

QUIXOTIC PERQUISITIONS. First Series. By George Reavey. (The Europa Press; 3s. 6d.)

The vigour and the vitality of imagery which one has come to expect of Mr. Reavey are very evident in these new verses. Technical mannerism is more marked; in particular, a trick of massing almost identical-sounding words, brilliantly used at

times, at times perhaps used in excess. The argument, cassinidic, evokes 'the shivers'; suggests 'the Lord will prevent it or nobody can'; Sancho Proles is a central figure, 'Eternity's stowaway and simple bedfellow . . . a slave to all systems, inventor of none, but urgent to proclaim his need, BREAD.' 'Progress and its progenitors' are dismissed; the abasement of a mechanized microcosm feared; the Valkyries' triumph also; but equally the simpliste demagogue—'which is the dragon and who the dragooned?'; 'poor tenuous Ariel' in bondage to the prosperous B.B.C. is lamented, the 'hosts of petrified Christians stiff with indigenous indigestion' need a purge. Over-obscurity in some of the poems hinder; but all have their unambiguous flashes of brilliance.

G.V.

LITURGICAE INSTITUTIONES, DE BREVIARI ROMANI LITURGIA.

Editio Altera emendatio by C. Callewaert, J.C.D. (Car. Beyart, Bruges; 45 frs.)

The custom has grown of regarding the Breviary as a prayer book for priests and religious only, yet history shows that the laity were accustomed to take an active part in the performance of the Divine Office, and when prevented from attending would recite it privately. However, clerics and religious will be particularly gratified with this work which we have under review. It is a new improved edition of the companion volume to that which treats of Liturgy in more general terms. This contains explanations of the component parts of the Roman Breviary, with notes on the Rubrics and Calendar, accompanied with a wealth of historical information well documented. Such a work is of very great help to understanding the content of the Breviary, and the Mass as the centre of liturgical life, and a realisation of the gradual development under varied influences is destined to awaken new enthusiasms, without which the official prayer of the Church may become to be regarded as a tiresome formality. It is interesting to learn that as the daily Office sprang from the Sunday vigil, and the festive Office from the anniversary vigil of the Martyrs, so the Office of the Dead arose from the funeral watches which began to be kept at an early date in the monasteries.

The book is written in easy and clear Latin, and the full index makes it useful and handy for reference.

A.F.

Mr. Eric Gill's meditations on the social reference of the Stations of the Cross, originally printed in BLACKFRIARS, has appeared in book form under the title, *Social Justice and the Stations of the Cross*. The book is published by James Clarke, printed by Hague and Gill, includes a fine wood-cut by the author, and costs only one shilling. As *Christendom* said on its first publication, 'The whole thing is magnificent. We cannot urge its possession and use too strongly.'

BOOKS RECEIVED

- ATENE0 ANTONIANO (Rome): Joannis de Peckam, *Quodlibet Romanum*, ed. P. Ferdinandus M. Delorme, O.F.M. (L. 45).
- BURNS, OATES AND WASHBOURNE: *Catechism Stories, Part I, The Creed*, F. H. Drinkwater (2s. 6d.); *Spanish Basques and Separatism*, The Marquis Merry del Val (1s.); *Where is Thy God?* Father James, O.M.Cap. (5s.); *Moral Problems of Mental Defect*, J. S. Cammack, S.J. (7s. 6d.); *Names and Name-days*, Donald Attwater (5s.); *Cambridge Summer School Lecture, 1938, The Old Testament* (7s. 6d.); *The Glory of Martyred Spain*, Luis Carreras (6s.); *The Cinema Mystery*, A Novel, Major J. T. Gorman (3s. 6d.); *The Desert Knight*, A Novel, Douglas V. Duff (3s. 6d.); *Ken, Candy and Co.*, A Novel, Millicent Inglis Thomas (3s. 6d.).
- DESCLEE DE BROUWER (Bruges): *Mariologia*, Benedictus H. Merklebach, O.P. (frs. 45).
- EDITIONS DE LA CITE CHRETIENNE: *Nos Enfants et Nous*, Dr. Etienne de Greeff (frs. 16.50).
- EDITIONS SALVATOR: *Mariage et Famille*; *La Foi—L'Existence de Dieu*, S. Exc. Mgr. Tihamer Toth, tr. Abbé Marcel Grandcludon (frs. 20 ea.). *A La Conquête des Cimes*, Tome II, Dunin Borkowski, S.J. (frs. 18).
- JAMES CLARKE & CO.: *Social Justice and the Stations of the Cross*, Eric Gill, T.O.S.D. (1s.).
- JOHN MURRAY: *San Celestino*, John Ayscough (new edn.) (3s. 6d.).
- LONGMANS: *Body and Spirit, Essays in Sexuality* (Symposium) (7s. 6d.).
- OXFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS: *The Personal Heresy*, E. M. W. Tillyard and C. S. Lewis (6s.); *Fear and Trembling*, Sören Kierkegaard, tr. Robert Payne (7s. 6d.); *European Civilisation*, ed. Edward Eyre, Vol. VII (21s.).
- PLON (Paris): *Une Renaissance Française*, R. P. Ducattillon, O.P. (frs. 16.50).
- SHEED AND WARD: *Love, Marriage and Chastity*, E. Mersch, S.J. (2s. 6d.); *The Woman who was Poor*, Léon Bloy, tr. I. J. Collins (8s. 6d.).