

Book Reviews

THE BIBLE BEAUTIFUL. An edition, for general use, of the Douay Version of the Old Testament. By Mother Mary Eaton. (Longmans, Green & Co. ; 3/6).

This excellent work was first issued some months ago at two shillings, and was noticed here at the time. In it Mother Mary Eaton gives us 'the entire history of the Jewish people, from Genesis to the Machabees, with copious extracts from the Psalms, the Prophets and the Sapiential Books, in nothing but the words of Holy Scripture.' The book is well printed and pleasant to read, having no verse divisions and only one column to the page. Half a dozen useful maps are inserted. In the present edition with its new binding the external appearance contrasts as pleasantly as the internal with the Bibles we have been too long accustomed to. The price is low for a volume of four hundred and forty pages, and altogether the book is one to be warmly recommended.

L. W.

MATTHEW PARKER'S WITNESS AGAINST CONTINUITY. By the Rev. H. E. G. Rope, M.A. (Burns, Oates & Washbourne, Ltd. ; paper, 2/6).

Father Rope has ably marshalled the evidence, mainly from the Parker correspondence, which proves that the Elizabethan Reformers were startling innovators on the system they set out to reform and that in personal opinion they rejected much that Anglo-Catholics now hold as essential. Yet in this piece of continuity controversy, as in many others that we have read, we are beset by the sense of being at cross purposes with our opponents ; that the continuity which we persistently deny them does not appear to be the continuity which they as persistently claim and that we should be making better use of our opportunities if we argued about questions which lie nearer to the heart of the matter.

And the heart of the matter is that the expression 'One Church' does not mean to the Anglo-Catholic what it means to us. Continuity for them means essential identity between the Church to-day and the Church as it was founded by our Lord. We hold the Reformation to have been a break in continuity because by it the Church of England was severed from the Catholic unity. They deny any essential break because they deny our conception of Catholic unity. If we argue with Anglicans about continuity, taking our own conception of Catholic unity as a basis, we shall find that they are prepared to concede much that we claim ; if on the other hand we argue the question

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on the basis of their conception we shall soon find ourselves involved in a complex theological debate about *intention* and the bearing of personal beliefs on public and official acts, a debate which will quickly reveal the wide gulf which separates those who hold different conceptions of the meaning of Catholic authority.

For this reason we think that, though Fr. Rope's book is excellently calculated to strengthen the convictions of the already convinced, it does not touch the fringe of the difficulty for those whose convictions are not ours. Moreover the unnecessary acerbity which creeps into his writing will irritate rather than persuade.

H.St.J.

THE WAY OF LIFE : AN INTRODUCTION TO THE CATHOLIC RELIGION. By the Rev. G. J. MacGillivray, M.A. (Burns, Oates & Washbourne; pp. 275; 6/-).

The ways into the Church are diverse and devious. *Quidquid recipitur ad modum recipientis recipitur.* Some converts come in treading on air, others humanly reluctant and struggling, and the case is recorded of one who walked in backwards. To find that such different folk are drawn to her—and in such different ways—is a satisfying argument persuading us that the Church is the one only ark of salvation. Father MacGillivray's book presents what may be called the straightforward approach to the Church; he uses the direct method. There is no controversy; the Church is not explained in terms of Anglicanism or Protestantism; no time is spent unpicking, unlearning or retracing false steps; but he gives a positive exposition of the plain, simple teaching of the Church. The method has the high sanction of Him who said, 'First seek ye the Kingdom of Heaven'; and it should commend itself to those (and how many they are nowadays!) who are befogged and bewildered by negations and prohibitions and seek something positive and definite. Father MacGillivray's excellent book, it is to be hoped, will do much to dispel ignorance and help to lead many into the Way of Life.

WHAT THINK YOU OF CHRIST? By Father C. C. Martindale, S.J. (Sheed & Ward; 2/6).

The central theme of these five sermons is, 'Christ, our model, no matter how incomplete our view.' Whether we regard Him as simply a Good Workman, or a man who was 'Right' all through, or the-greatest-to-date, or as a Unique Figure—