

CATCH US THOSE LITTLE FOXES. By A Carmelite Nun. (Herder; 5s.)

Human common sense suffused by the gracious wisdom of holiness is the special quality of this Carmelite nun who has delighted a large public for many years. Her reflections on life in general and on modern holiness in particular have been presented in *Each Hour Remains, Our Eternal Vocation, Heartbreak Earth*. This time she gives us ninety-five pages of rich reflections, so arranged and divided up that the reader accompanies her through a typical day in a Carmelite life, each period of the day being a chapter. In this way it is a 'vocations' book, portraying Carmel for anyone who is interested and thinking of entering. Its general interest lies in this, that the picture of Carmelite life is generously filled in with thoughts about holiness in general: a typical Carmelite thinking aloud about her own life as a human life. It is extraordinary how often she says things which apply not only to Carmelites but to people in the world who are trying to live holily, to create what Dr John Wu calls an interior Carmel.

Sometimes the little Carmelite vignette seems merely an excuse for talking about something else. This is an advantage because whichever way she roams—history, liturgy, even philosophy—this writer has something helpful to say. Work, unselfishness, temptation, perplexity about God's will, all come up for mention.

In the chapter on vocation it is difficult to follow her all the way; there is perhaps a tendency to humanize the inscrutable ways of God in the calling, and holding, of souls.

The chapter on 'Prayer and the Way of it' is a gem of its kind. It will help everyone but especially those who are apt to get confused by degrees of prayer, theories of prayer or what Caryll Houselander used to call 'expertness in prayer'.

The best book yet from this gifted pen, it will console many, enlighten many, and help to spread commonsense holiness among lay people as well as religious.

G.M.C.

THE WESTERN FATHERS: *being the Lives of SS. Martin of Tours, Ambrose, Augustine of Hippo, Honoratus of Arles, and Germanus of Auxerre.* Translated and edited by F. R. Hoare. (Sheed and Ward; 18s.)

THE ANGLO-SAXON MISSIONARIES IN GERMANY: *being the Lives of SS. Willibrord, Boniface, Sturm, Leoba and Lebuin, together with the Hodoeporicon of St Willibald and a Selection from the Correspondence of St Boniface.* Translated and edited by C. H. Talbot. (Sheed and Ward; 16s.)

These are the first two volumes in Sheed and Ward's 'Makers of Christendom' series, of which the General Editor is Mr Christopher