

OUR TIME IS NOW. By Mary O'Leary. (Burns & Oates; 9s. 6d.)

As an introduction to the modern movement of 'religious life in the world' this is a valuable addition to the bookshelves of spiritual directors and of lay people who are interested in the subject. It is calculated to give a general idea of the purpose, the philosophy, the asceticism, the driving force, the spirit, of secular institutes in general and of a few chosen ones in particular.

The brief incomplete study of the few which are actually described does not grip the reader, who may well be left with elevated ideas and nothing very concrete.

For anyone thinking seriously of joining a secular institute this book is far less satisfactory than the text of *Provida Mater* itself, taken with, say, *Secular Institutes* (published by Blackfriars); and as a follow-up it is best to consider actually existing institutes rather than spend much time on the theory of the thing. It is a pity that there is no readily available complete list of existing and accessible secular institutes in English. Fr Beyer's *Les Instituts Seculiers* seems to be the nearest thing. What is wanted is a good reliable reference book with a real description, taken from life, of what each institute is and what it is trying to do.

Meanwhile Dr O'Leary's presentation of the ideals and the principles will certainly help a lot of people to focus the subject. It will have a real effect on the level of high theory and it is not without power in the sphere of emotion. A most useful instrument for all who are working in this field.

JOAN BARTLETT

THE CURÉ D'ARS: ST JEAN-MARIE-BAPTISTE VIANNEY. A shorter biography. By Mgr Francis Trochu. (Burns Oates; 12s. 6d.)

Mgr Trochu's official and massive Life of the Cure d'Ars first appeared in English in 1927 and was re-issued four times. Five years ago Mgr Trochu rewrote the book as a shorter Life and this has now been translated into English by Ronald Matthews. The Life of the Curé should not be allowed to go out of print and a re-issue of Henri Gheon's stimulating biography should surely also be reprinted. These Lives will help to keep alive the memory of one of the most astoundingly heroic characters in modern times and perhaps introduce the great saint to the younger generation of today. And priests need to be reminded of one who has been declared the special patron of the parochial clergy.

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