

recited in Turkey on ceremonial occasions, and it has a more or less liturgical status. There are nine sections in it, the more important being the invocation to Allah, the account of Muhammed's birth with attendant miracles, and the description of the *Miradj* or Heavenly Journey. This translation is too weak in its handling of English verse to make it a satisfying work on its own account, but the introduction is very good and informative. Among the material provided is a long description of the poem's recital in the eighteenth century; and the traditional tune (very 'non-European') is transcribed in ordinary notation. Altogether an interesting little book.

W.S.

MY LEADER IN LIFE. By George Burns, S.J. (Burns Oates; 2s. 6d.)

Father Burns has done a fine piece of work: a book for boys and girls from the age of reason till their death, though it provides first of all for that most critical of all ages, the 'school leaving' age. It is not exactly a prayer book, though it does contain some prayers, all practical, simple and straightforward; it is not exactly a book of instruction, though it has plenty of good advice to give; it is not exactly a book of meditations, though it certainly provides much food for thought. It combines the qualities of all three with something more besides, for Father Burns has achieved that balance of dignity and informality so essential and at the same time so elusive in talking to young people. He has produced a book which any boy, and no doubt girl too, would be proud to possess, a pocket companion to the Catholic Faith.

The foundations of doctrine are explained simply and attractively and then shown in their applications: important emphasis is laid on the practice of a good Catholic life as well as knowledge, and the important part prayer must play in this practice. The reader will want to re-read and ponder, particularly the section on Our Lady: devotion to Our Lady is shown as something real and beautiful and the ingenuous spirit forestalls any spurious charge of sentimentality. Burns Oates must be congratulated on a most attractive format—a not unimportant item when producing a book for boys and girls.

GERARD MEATH, O.P.

OUR GREATEST TREASURE. By John Kearney, C.S.Sp., with a memoir of the author by Edward Leen, C.S.Sp. (Burns Oates; 8s. 6d.)

Readers of Father Kearney's earlier works will welcome this posthumous publication for the brief biography of the author which helps towards a deeper understanding of his writings.

The body of the book is written in the downright foursquare style of his earlier works which, though it may deter the more fastidious,