

FATHER TOMPKINS OF NOVA SCOTIA. By George Boyle. (P. J. Kenedy and Sons, New York; \$3.)

All who have at heart the cause of adult education and of a vital Christianity which brings the works of mercy to the modern scene in a way our times demand, should read this book. Fr Tompkins is one of that growing band of priests and laymen who believe, with the late Archbishop McNeil of Toronto, that '... we labour under a restriction of the meaning of the word Charity in the minds of our people. They take it to apply to remedial measures only, such as a hospital, poor relief, an orphanage, etc. They do not think of it as applying to preventive measures, such as education, technical efficiency, promotion of sound family life, etc.'

Fr Tompkins was not only vice-president of St Francis Xavier's, Antigonish, but a parish priest who, by gentle encouragement and the right word in the right place at the right time, was able to persuade fishermen, farmers, miners, to co-operate in improving their lot by their own united efforts. He gave them the necessary training by providing them with good, sound, practical literature, by teaching that the works of mercy in our time include such things as self-help building groups, co-operative social action, the study of real conditions as well as doctrine. Thus he was able to see the simple and depressed (both economically and spiritually) fishermen of his parish of Dover successfully combating the great impersonal forces of capitalism. He was one of those who helped to make St Francis Xavier's into a university with its roots in the land and among the common people of the towns and villages, a centre of education and inspiration for all and not only for those who took courses within its walls.

France has its *Economie et Humanisme* movement, Canada its Antigonish with its fine harvest of co-operative reform. Is it not time the Catholics of England proved that they too are able to show visibly that the Church in our own country is able to bring forth treasures new as well as old?

REGINALD TREVETT

BROTHER POTAMIAN: EDUCATOR AND SCIENTIST. By W. J. Battersby, Ph.D. (Burns Oates; 15s.)

When Brother Potamian of the Congregation of Brothers of the Christian Schools, better known in England as the De La Salle Brothers, died in America in 1917, an American Dominican published an article on him, describing him as 'an ideal educator and scientist'. This was but one of many laudatory articles, and now Dr Battersby, of the same Congregation, has paid further tribute in his biography of the Irish boy who came to exercise a great influence in English and American Catholic education during the last century.

The parents of Michael Francis O'Reilly emigrated to America from Ireland at the time of the potato famine when the future Brother Potamian