

LES PAUVRES DE YAHWE. By A. Gelin. Témoins de Dieu, No. 14; (Cerf: Blackfriars).

In a previous work of outstanding importance despite its slender form (*Les Idées Maitresses de l'Ancien Testament*, Lectio Divina series, No. 2), the Abbé Gelin had suggested the biblical theme of the 'weak things of this world', or the action of God through lowly human instruments. In the present work the theme is worked out in a very readable yet scholarly form. For some years now there has been much study and writing, especially on the Continent, on or around the *anawim* or 'poor ones' of Yahweh who came to play so important, if largely hidden, a part in the spiritual history and contribution of Israel. The Abbé Gelin has admirably summed up the essential history and significance of these folk who were first called 'the poor' by the prophet Sophonias, about 640-630 B.C. 'I will still have among you a poor and lowly people, and they will put their faith in the name of the Lord, this Rest of Israel . . .' (Soph. 3, 12). Thus we have an introductory chapter on the notion and vocabulary of poverty in the Old Testament, then the 'Church' or Assembly of the 'poor' from Sophonias onwards, their spirituality (Chapter III), their later history and Messianic expectations. Then a magnificent section on the *Magnificat* presented as the lowly and humble Maiden's song of poverty, and a chapter on New Testament poverty, which can hardly be dissociated from that *tapeinosis*, or lowliness, humility, which so essentially came into the world with our religion, for (as Mr Gladstone said) 'humility as a sovereign grace is the creation of Christianity'. The last words of the conclusion are a citation from St Theresa of Lisieux: 'Fear not: the more thou art poor, the more will Jesus love you'. This is a lesson which desperately needs to be learnt in the England, even in the Catholic England of today. May we hope that this excellent little book will soon be translated into English:

ROLAND POTTER, O.P.

## NOTICES

### NON-CATHOLIC SPIRITUALITY

SEVERAL books have recently appeared, particularly from Anglican publishers, which set out to provide *Spiritual Guidance* of a traditional kind for the ordinary reader. The first is a work with this title by Fr Shirley Hughson, O.M.C. (Mowbrays; 12s. 6d.), who quotes broadly not only from the Scriptures and the Fathers, but from St Thomas,