

REVIEWS

on St. Albert for over fifty years, and that is why this work 'has been undertaken in order that English-speaking peoples may have in their own language a study of a great saint and a man of vast learning whose influence on the thought of Western civilization has been immeasurable and in the hope that it may stimulate others to further research.' Lovers of the thirteenth century and all who are interested in one of its greatest scholars should be grateful to the editors for this undertaking.

R.N.

THE CHURCH AND SPIRITUALISM. By Herbert Thurston, S.J. (Milwaukee: Bruce; pp. 384; \$2.75).

A scholarly and unprejudiced survey of the facts; an exposure of the fictions. Fr. Thurston investigates the history of modern spiritualism from the days of the first manifestations in Hydesville, his massive learning presented in a way that makes every page extremely interesting. One is most grateful for his uncompromising attack on the Pure Fake theory, a theory which, in Catholic hands, can be as harmful as, to the present writer at least, it is untenable. Telepathy, clairvoyance are recognised as facts by all but a very few; the evidence for materialisation, genuine automatism, etc., as arrayed in this book is cogent. But it is difficult to accept the hypothesis of merely 'mischievous' and frolicsome spirits to explain obviously bogus yet apparently harmless communications.

The Church's attitude, as the author explains, is one of prudence: so much harm has in fact resulted, there is always so much danger and usually so little real success, that spiritualists themselves have echoed her warnings. The book should do much good, not least in exonerating Catholics from the charge of obscurantism and the uncharitable refusal to recognise sincerity.

L.S.G.V.

THE ADVENTURES OF GABRIEL IN HIS SEARCH FOR MR. SHAW. By Dr. W. R. Mathews. (Hamish Hamilton; 2/6.)

Dr. Mathews is not content with the answer 'P'shaw' to Mr. Shaw. The machinery of his book creaks rather more than that of the *Black Girl* and it is altogether slier and is unfortunately far less attractive in its shabby clerical black than that amazingly attractive piece of black beauty. Dr. Mathews enlivens his work by pleasant humour and gives some valuable criticism of such doctrines as the 'Life Force.' He ends by a passage of real discernment of the 'indignation and despair at the cruelty