

all benefit from this treatment, from time to time, indeed we all need it. That is why everybody should read at least one or two of the books of Dom Hubert van Zeller.

G. M. CORR, O.S.M.

LATE MEDIEVAL MYSTICISM. Edited by Ray C. Petry. (S.C.M. Press: The Library of Christian Classics, vol. XIII; 35s.)

The scope of this book is much wider than its title may imply, for it covers a period stretching from St Bernard (d. 1153) to St Catherine of Genoa (d. 1510). A long introduction explains the province and character of mysticism, and gives a detailed account of the setting of late medieval mysticism. The chapters on the writers of the period consist of biographical and bibliographical notices, synopses of doctrine, and long extracts from well-known and characteristic works taken from translations already published elsewhere. The authors discussed include Bernard, the Victorines, Francis, Lull, Eckhart, Rolle, Suso, Catherine of Sienna, Ruysbroeck, and the 'Theologica Germanica'. Such a vast field is almost bound to lead to many notable omissions, both in the introductions and in the extracts. For instance, there is not one mention of Gregory of Nyssa, who was such an important source in medieval spirituality, and the only Cistercian writers named are Bernard, William of St Thierry and Gueric, such important figures as Aelred, Isaac of Stella and Helinand being passed over completely. It is a great shame that the flourishing school of English mystics in the fourteenth century should deserve such little notice: the editor has completely ignored Julian of Norwich, 'The Cloud of Unknowing', and Walter Hilton. In fact, one gathers the general impression that this book is hampered by its ambitiousness: a more coherent and accurate picture of this long period might have been provided if this book had aimed at a less historical approach, and had instead tried to show the themes of late medieval mysticism by means of short and illustrative passages from the authors of the period. But this book does provide a convenient introduction to these writers in so far as it collects in one volume lengthy extracts from their works, and provides an excellent and thorough bibliography.

ADRIAN WALKER

THE DIOCESAN PRIEST. By Eugène Masure. (Geoffrey Chapman, London; 18s.)

The sub-title of this book is 'A study in the theology and spirituality of the priesthood'. This indicates the book's scope and shows that the book ought to be of interest to all Catholics—to religious and to the laity no less than to the pastoral clergy. It is therefore something of a disappointment that the treatment of the subject is so involved. All in