

form of a series of dialogues. In literary genre, the author considers, this gospel closely resembles the Greek *mimesis* or Dialogue, while its verse-forms are those of traditional Hebrew poetry—a fusion of exactly the two traditions which might be expected to have influenced an apostle-bishop of Ephesus. Mr Chavasse makes his point in the most compelling manner possible, by simply presenting us with the rearranged text and allowing the results to speak for themselves. The effect is most arresting. The chanting of St John's Passion in the Good Friday liturgy comes to mind—as if the same dramatic method had been developed and extended to cover the whole gospel. It reveals to a remarkable degree how much of this gospel is in fact dialogue, and how subordinate a part the purely narrative sections play. Mr Chavasse's suggestion is constructive and important, and he presents it impressively.

JOSEPH BOURKE, O.P.

CRISE DU POUVOIR ET CRISE DU CIVISME. Compte rendu de la Semaine Sociale de Rennes, 1954. (Chronique Sociale de France; 1,000 fr.)

The forty-first *Semaine Sociale de France*, here reported *in extenso*, upheld the high standard of its predecessors both in the actuality of the subjects treated and in the high level of competence of the speakers, jurists, historians, economists, statesmen and theologians. A consideration of the State in its varying roles, discussed both theoretically and in practice, led to intensely practical conclusions on civic education. As usual the tone of the whole week was set by the letter addressed to the President by His Holiness the Pope who, while stressing the civic responsibility of Christians, called attention to some of the most notorious failures in this regard: disinterestedness in public affairs; tax frauds; sterile criticism of authority along with a selfish defence of privileges which are detrimental to the general interest. The *Semaines Sociales* were founded in 1904 (the fact that this was the forty-first is accounted for by their suspension from 1914-18 and from 1940-44) and not the least interesting contributions in this volume are the speeches, reminiscent, witty and not without justified pride, made by M. Jean Guilton and M. Jacques Turret at the great public meeting held to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary and to pay tribute to Marius Gonin and Eugene Duthoit, the two master architects of this 'pontifical university'.

J.F.

CALLED UP. The Personal Experiences of Sixteen National Servicemen Told by Themselves. Edited by Peter Chambers and Amy Landreth. (Allan Wingate; 10s. 6d.)

Conscription has by this become so accepted a part of the national life that some account of its working, in terms of those who have to