

which are best assimilated at prayer. There are two parts competently arranged with scholarly notes. The first section, which is certainly more fascinating, provides us with ancient forms of the order of the Mass in the Eastern and Western rites dating from the third century. Their scope is truly catholic. Familiarity with these lovely old litanies and anaphora makes one appreciate far more the condensed form of the Roman rite as used today, and deepens our understanding of the liturgy at the end of Holy Week. The second section, containing many lovely Prefaces, is a selection of prayers for use in the course of the liturgical cycle or upon such solemn occasions as baptism and marriage. The whole is designed for private, domestic or parochial use and should become as precious a companion as one's daily missal. A further edition could perhaps correct the numbering of the prayers (98 is omitted) and the printer's error in line two of number 67.

ST M. AGNES, O.P.

REFLECTIONS ON THE PASSION. By Charles Hugo Doyle. (Bruce; 14s.)

This is a useful pocket book with simple, practical meditations which can be absorbed while going to work on the train or at almost any odd time of day. It seems to give old examples a fresh entrance into the mind. For instance (on Temptation, first week in Lent): 'Suppose the friend was not victorious, that he failed—failed because no one came to help him.' We are brought at once from the abstractions of exhortation to the concrete realities: we remember that our friend needs the strength of our love at the time of temptation, not afterwards. 'We often allow others', says another meditation (in Holy Week), 'to tell us our duty. If my wife would be more religious, I'd be religious too.' This would be a most practical meditation for the time spent going to the office. On the Wednesday in Holy Week the meditation is on the reed placed in our Lord's hands. The blows from the reed are thought of as reparation for the mockery that men and women today make of marriage: sins such as divorce, abortion, desertion, birth control. These meditations are for all and they carry the reader to the foot of the cross to learn how God's love can be applied to everyday life.

K. J. BARTLETT

THE INNER SEARCH. By Hubert van Zeller. (Sheed and Ward; 15s.)

This is essentially a book for those who have set their wills into the way of perfection. Written, in the first place, perhaps, for the traditional religious, its direction could well be used for people in search of perfection in the world, say in a Secular Institute, where novitiates could receive a stimulus in the way the old 'trade routes'

are mapped out. From early chapters on the Hidden Face of God and the Hidden Face of Self, Father van Zeller takes the student's enquiry into the problem of Asceticism and the Problem of Mysticism, slowly bringing the reader to the Triumph of the Holy Ghost in the Soul, where all realizations are crystallized in the knowledge, however inadequate, of man's final end, i.e., the adoration of the Blessed Trinity.

Dom van Zeller has dealt with the various aspects of the ascent to God in a thorough manner. In an early chapter he draws attention to the truth, that it is one of the paradoxes of human experience that those who have handed over their happiness to God, and who are prepared to be unhappy for the rest of their lives as victims bearing witness to his love, are in fact the happiest of all. He manifests the reality of life, to those who are prepared to accept the reality, through the word VICTIM, and later on he devotes a practical, if necessarily incomplete, chapter to sanctity and penance. Here he says 'since his sacrifice was voluntary, so should ours be. Once freely consenting to his purpose and his demand, we draw to our insignificant expressions of penance the force of his infinite merit: mystically we find our place in Christ's act of atonement.' It is a subject that could usefully be developed in the direction of individual souls.

The soul's 'Growth in the Holy Ghost' is beautifully prefaced by a chapter on the part played by the Holy Ghost, in which the reader is solemnly reminded that, while on earth, we can have no other vision of God than that which is according to our disposition in receiving it, and that, seeing our disposition is limited by our mortal nature, we are bound to be separated from him and from the city of our desire by an element to which we are naturally akin: but, as the Holy Spirit reveals himself to us, we come to see through this element.

This book will wisely be placed on the bookshelf of every person who is dedicated to God.

K. J. BARTLETT

THOUGHTS OF THE CURÉ D'ARS FOR EVERY DAY, compiled and arranged by W.M.B. (Burns Oates, Paternoster Series 14.)

This little book will be useful and inspiring for those who like to carry about with them during the day a thought to ponder and pray.

As everyone knows there is a penetrating simplicity and directness about the Curé d'Ars which sprang from his holiness and drew crowds to hear his spoken words. These written words, arranged in short extracts, are for each day of every month, will have a similar attraction for those who use them.