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expected of a well brought-up layman. The *Speculum historiale, naturale, doctrinale* of the Dominican Vincent of Beauvais, written for the instruction of the son of the King of France, and the *De Proprietatibus rerum* of the English Franciscan Bartholomew Anglicus, are well known in this field. The *Compendium Philosophiae*, or as it is called in some manuscripts, *Compilacio compendiosa ex libris Aristotelis et quorundam aliorum philosophorum de rerum natura*, is not an original work, but rather a compilation from different sources on varied topics: God, the Angels, the heavens, the earth, plants, animals, man. The main authority is Aristotle, but Plato, Chalcidius, Cicero, Boethius, St. Augustine, Isidore of Seville, Ps.-Dionysius, Averroes are often quoted. The influence of Albert the Great seems very prominent. One feature of this *Compendium*, which is not often met in similar encyclopaedias, is the total absence of moralization. From a certain analogy with the *Compendium Theologiae*, published among the works of St. Albert and now commonly attributed to Hugh Ripelin of Strasburg, de Boüard is inclined to ascribe the *Compendium Philosophiae* also to Hugh. The arguments alleged are not convincing at all, and the references on p. 117, n. 1, still less so. The extracts edited from MS. lat. 15879 of the National Library, Paris, will perhaps enable the discovery of the real author. The importance, of course, of this *Compendium* depends more upon its date than upon its contents; this importance would be very considerable, as a witness to the diffusion of the new Aristotelian learning, if it belongs to the first half of the thirteenth century, but it would be quite negligible if, as Dr. de Boüard contends, it was not compiled until a later period towards the end of the century.

DANIEL A. CALLUS, O.P.

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GOD AND HIS WORKS, being Selections from Part I of the *Summa Theologica* of St. Thomas Aquinas, and STUDIES IN ST. THOMAS, Notes on the Doctrine of God. By A. G. Hebert, M.A., S.S.M. (S.P.C.K.; 4/6.)

Two volumes in one; each of which is obtainable separately for half-a-crown. They are the outcome of lectures in the theology of St. Thomas given at the Anglican Theological College at Kelham, and "ask to be allowed to perform the ceremony of introduction between would-be students and the master." The first volume, in particular, should be very welcome to the many who would like at least a nodding acquaintance with St. Thomas's *Summa* but are appalled by the size and price of the whole work. The selection of texts is judicious and representative, and is preceded by a useful introduction on the form of the *Summa* and on its author.

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But the accompanying *Notes on Scholastic Terminology* call for considerable revision if they are not to mislead the student.

The second volume consists of an excellent essay on the function of natural theology and an elementary commentary on the selected passages of the *Summa* which comprise the first volume. The explanations are often helpful and the examples ingenious, but are apt to suffer from the insufficiently clear grasp of the meaning of many of St. Thomas's terms. It is to be hoped that the present work is but the first of a series which will make the more important parts of the entire *Summa* available in similar handy format and at an equally low price. V. W.

A PRIMER OF SOCIAL SCIENCE. By the Right Rev. Monsignor H. Parkinson, D.D., Ph.D. Sixth edition, completely revised. (Catholic Social Guild, Oxford; 3/-.)

Through lack of generous support the Catholic Social Guild is hampered in its eminently apostolic work of spreading Catholic social teaching. That it deserves this support is evident from the choice of its publications, of which *A Primer of Social Science* by Mgr. Parkinson is a typical example. It gives a brief but adequate summary of the Catholic teaching on Social Life, Economic Relations and the Problems of Poverty. It would seem that the title calls for more accuracy since two-thirds of the contents deal with economic problems which can hardly be classed under the general heading of Social Science: Social Science and Economics deal with different problems and from a different point of view. Hence to make the "civic relations of man in the religious, moral, economic, and political order" the subject matter of Social Science is a retrogression which a completely revised edition should have avoided. But the fact that this *Primer* deals not only with social but also with economic problems will make it all the more useful to beginners and to those who in the course of their study of non-Catholic authors want to make sure of the Catholic teaching on any particular point of social or economic theory. B. P.

TERRACINA CLOUD. By Frederick Johnston. (Verona Press; 3/6.)

THRONGING FEET. By Robert Farren. (Sheed & Ward; 3/6.)

IN LOVING MEMORY. By Jack Gilbey. (Burns Oates; 3/6.)

Most modern collections of lyrics are like *Terracina Cloud*; the means of communication are so defective that you cannot tell whether or not the author's experience has any value. After these *Thronging Feet* is a great relief. Mr. Robert Farren has much to give. He communicates a sane and interesting attitude in metaphors that are sometimes new and exciting, and he can, when

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writing at his best, manipulate words into the ordinary speech-rhythms, which give his poetry a quite exceptional strength. So many of his lyrics are successful or nearly successful that one becomes irritated by the obvious faults of the others; by their too frequent scorn of rhyme—the finest pander poet faced with fickle inspiration ever had; by the effect of carelessness with which he sometimes jars his reader; and by his tendency to be chiefly influenced by the more eccentric of his literary predecessors, and especially by Hopkins.

Most of the poems of *In Loving Memory* have appeared in the *Catholic Times*. They have the qualities of the sentimentally bad religious verses of every age. To those readers who appreciate poetry such verse communicates nothing and is therefore innocuous; but to those who like it, it may, like each additional indulgence in the drug of addiction, be positively harmful.

G. B. S.

SOVIET MAN—NOW. By Helen Iswolsky. Translated by E. F. Peeler. (Sheed & Ward; 2/6.)

During the nearly twenty years that have elapsed since Russia came under Communist rule it has been difficult to obtain reliable information as to how the Communist experiment has worked out. It is, however, clear that there has been a progressive modification of the original idea of a Communist State. Officially each modification has been announced as a legitimate development of the original programme, introduced by the rulers themselves. Madame Iswolsky maintains that these changes, on the contrary, have been forced on the government by the people. To "save their face" the rulers have adopted as their own the modifications insisted on by the people, or rendered necessary by their resistance to the original programme, even under the pressure of extreme repressive measures. Perhaps the key sentence of the book is that which says that those whom hitherto the rulers have had to treat with respect, they will soon have to consult. The last few pages dealing with the religious state of the Soviet and prophesying that at no distant date Christianity will come forth from its "catacombs" are of particular interest.

R. D. C.

SIGNS WHICH HE DID. By "Lamplighter." (Burns Oates; 3/6.)

This is a book of stories from the Gospel of St. John "told to children with the help of children." Lamplighter's children are so good, so well instructed, and have such retentive memories for Scripture and the Catechism that their occasional lapses seem rather less probable than the perfection of their characters. Never-

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theless this book could be used very effectively by an adult with discretion and imagination, and it would make good reading for a child who has not yet acquired the cynicism of our age.

C. B.

LORD GOD. A book of prayers for boys and young men. By Dom Hubert van Zeller, O.S.B. (Burns Oates; 1/6.)

I think this is rather a good book. It has got some prayers in it which most people wouldn't think of putting in a book. I think that the morning and evening prayers are a bit too long for written prayers and that it is better to make up your own sometimes.

R. REPTON (aged 13).

BOOKS RECEIVED

- ALCAN** (Paris): *Platon*, Léon Robin (35 frs.).
- BEAUCHESNE** (Paris): *Le problème du mal d'après Saint Augustin*, Régis Jolivet (12 frs.); *Priscillien et l'Espagne à la fin du IV^e. siècle* (12 frs.).
- BLACKWELL** (Oxford): *Christianity and Communism* (symposium) (2/6).
- BURNS OATES**: *The Roman Breviary, English version compiled by Benedictine nuns of Stanbrook*, Vol. II: *Spring* (15/-); *The Quest of the Holy Grail*, Aileen Bagot, illus. Doris Pailthorpe (5/-); *La Trappe in England: Chronicles of an unknown Monastery*, A Religious of Holy Cross Abbey, Stapehill, Dorset (7/6); *In Christ's own Country*, Dom Ernest Graf, O.S.B. (10/6).
- CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY OF AMERICA** (Washington, D.C.): *The Relations between the Theory of Matter and Form and the Theory of Knowledge in the Philosophy of St. Thomas Aquinas*, Benignus Geerity, F.S.C., M.A. (no price).
- DENT**: *My Way of Faith*, M. D. Petre (10/6).
- DESCLEE DE BROUWER** (Paris): *Summa Theologiae Moralis ad Mentem S. Thomae et ad normam iuris Canonici*, Vol. III: *De Sacramentis*, Benedictus Merkelbach, O.P., editio altera, aucta et emendata (no price); *Les Grands de Marie, d'après les écrivains de l'Ecole française: Les meilleurs textes recueillis par A. Molien* (25 frs.).
- DOMINICAN HOUSE OF STUDIES** River Forest, Ill.): *De divisione causae exemplaris apud S. Thomam*, T. M. Sparks, O.P. (\$1.00 post paid).
- EYRE & SPOTTISWOODE**: *The Second and Third Reports of the Communist Atrocities committed in Southern Spain . . . with a preface by Arthur Bryant, issued by the authority of the Committee of Investigation appointed by the National Government at Burgos* (2/6).
- GABALDA** (Paris): *Saint Paul: Seconde Epître aux Corinthiens* (Etudes Bibliques), E. B. Allo, O.P. (90 frs.).
- HEATH CRANTON**: *Macbeth: A New Interpretation of the Text of Shakespeare's Play*, W. D. Sargeant (7/6).
- HERDER** (Freiburg i.B.): *Elementa Philosophiae Aristotelico-Thomisticae*, Josephus Gredt, O.S.B., Vol. I: *Logica, Philosophia naturalis* (Editio septima recognita) (RM. 6.40; linen RM. 8.—); *Die hl. Schrift für das Leben erklärt*: Band XIV: *Römerbrief*, Edmund Kalt, *Korintherbriefe*, Peter Ketter (RM. 11.—; linen RM. 14.40; half-leather RM. 16.80).