

NOTICES

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THE WAY OF THE JUST. By Edwin Essex, O.P. (Burns, Oates; 2s. 6d.)

Books of meditations continue to appear with a frequency which is gratifying at least in so far as it points to a widespread practice of mental prayer and affective spiritual reading. This little volume by Fr. Edwn Essex provides reflexions upon general moral principles and upon the virtues and vices. The ideas are therefore eminently practical, and as they are expressed in simple—if at times curiously quaint—language, should be useful to all who will prayerfully consider them.

A. L'E.

PAX CHRISTI. Par Jean Caret. (Cité Chrétienne, Bruxelles; 10 frs.)

The implications of the universality of the Christian faith—that any war is, from the supernatural point of view, fratricidal; the necessity of a *jus belli*, a law governing the initiation of war, as well as a *jus in bello*, a law governing the waging of war; the role of the Popes as guardians and promoters of peace in the world: these are the main themes of this book. In each case there is useful historical data; there is a certain amount of lyricism which will jar on the British ear; a certain amount of exegesis which is somewhat unconvincing; a defence of the Christian defenders of the just war the warmth of which suggests the sudden emergence of party politics, for it contrasts oddly with the main burden of the book.

G. V.

DIE GUTEN WERKE DES HERRN VINZENZ. Von Leo Weismantel. (Herder; RM. 2.40, cloth RM. 3.50.)

Another recent book representing the character of St. Vincent de Paul in all its loveliness. Not a scientific biography, but a series of scenes in which the Saint is shown to us in all his tenderness to humanity. The earliest episodes are from his boyhood, and the closing scene is the death of the Saint, blessing all those souls for whom he had worked all his life. In the intermediate scenes we watch him on his errands of mercy, giving consolation to kings and beggars, to priests and peasants, to nobles and galley-slaves: to all. The anecdotes recounted really represent the chief activities and contacts in the life of the Saint, and are generally well-founded historically, though the Mar-

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seilles incident of voluntary slavery is accepted. Events are vividly painted (with some fresh dialogue and colourful detail often traceable to the Saint's own letters) on a careful background of time and place. The whole is told with a lively charm, and the great-hearted Monsieur Vincent becomes intensely real and endeared to the reader. Is not this the purpose of Hagiography?

S. E. B.

MEMORIES OF CHARLES DE FOUCAULD. By Père Georges Gorrée.
Translated by Donald Attwater. (Burns Oates; 7s. 6d.)

Another and invaluable source book on charming Charles de Foucauld. One has no desire for a more biographical account of this cavalry officer; his restive hungry soul is autobiographically depicted in the exciting pages of his own letters. Père Gorrée, many many thanks to him, has given us something authentic. It is of course a matter of taste, but how much more sane, lovable, and truthful are these wholehearted souls speaking for themselves than when they are written about—when their biographer becomes an autobiographer. Presumably there is a mean but it is seldom realised, and the author in this case has erred most certainly on the right side. The letters teem with thoughts expressed in a way to make the Christian life of self-giving revered and loved. This is rare, and rare too is the work of Mr. Attwater, for he has put Père Gorrée's book into real English.

P. P. F.

MARIE-PAULINE DE JESUS-CHRIST—Mademoiselle Jaricot. Par
Colette Yver. (Editions Spes; 15 frs.)

The extraordinary life-story of Pauline Jaricot, best known as the originator of the A.P.F. circle system of collecting for the Missions. But this was only one episode in the life of a woman of amazing vitality and full of ideas, who was always initiating fresh schemes of doing good. She inherited a great fortune and as she had a social conscience remarkable in the first half of the 18th century, she seemed destined for great things. But she died a pauper, having been cheated of all her wealth; during her life-time most of her undertakings failed or were discredited, and if, like the A.P.F. idea, they worked well, she was denied all credit for them. Her character, by no means naturally resigned or acquiescent, developed under crushing trials a depth and saintliness which has led, 80 years after her death, to the introduction of her Cause for Beatification. It is an absorbing story and well told in this book.

M. M. B.

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LA FEMME DANS LE LAICAT. By le Chanoine Adrien Garnier.
Preface by the Bishop of Grenoble. (Desclée de Brouwer;
15 frs.)

This is a contribution to Catholic Action literature, chiefly in the direction of spirituality—directions for the interior life, general dispositions, and points of character necessary for a share in the apostolate. There are several interesting chapters on the work which has been initiated and carried out by laywomen in France in recent times, and the book is punctuated by copious extracts from the writings of Madame Leseur. M. M. B.

WHAT HATH A MAN? By Sarah Gertrude Millin. (Chatto & Windus; 8s. 6d.)

It is not by stark situations and a painstaking fidelity of description that this novel achieves its honesty, but more by a nice sense of exclusion. The salient is emphasised: the commonplace tacitly accepted. Henry Ormandy's life was determined by the influences, successive or continuous, of his Catholicism, of his parents, by his attitude towards Rhodesia, towards women in general and his wife in particular, and finally by the enormous importance of his relationship with his son. His loneliness, his fastidiousness, his ill-health, his continual frustrated search for an integrated tranquillity, all this is given no particular prominence since none is warranted. But from the things that really mattered to him is made a chain of incidents so moving, so vivid, so economically true that after the book is finished it seems one's own life that one looks back upon. In style, construction and outlook this book is a welcome exception in a season of mediocrity. M. A. B.

LE PREDICATEUR DES ENFANTS. Troisième série: AUDITE DISCIPLINAM. Par l'Abbé Ch. Dörner, traduit de l'Allemand par le Chanoine E. R. Vancelle. (Editions Salvator, Mulhouse; 12 frs.)

This collection of fifty-one sermons for children contains much that is excellent. Although the French version of the German has done little to make the idiom more suitable for English children, the book can be regarded as a source for good material and should be useful to those who see more in a book of sermons than matter for literal reproduction. C. B.

Our reviewer's hope for a translation of Señor Mendizabal's "indispensable" *Aux Origines d'une Tragédie* (cf. BLACKFRIARS, January, p. 70) has been realised by Messrs. Bles, who publish a competent translation of the book together with Maritain's celebrated preface at half-a-guinea.