

Pius XI who proved to be the leading teachers of the modern Church; not Pius IX, to whom Mr Hales understandably devotes his best and most detailed work.

The style of this book, except for occasional lapses of taste, is usually good to read. No reader, however uninformed, would find this book dull. It is well produced and the index well selected. There is a bibliographical guide, which is useful, but which seems to delve too much into the recesses of the greater libraries: readers of this work will not require the *Amplissima Collectio Conciliorum*.

Mr Hales has succeeded in a difficult task, and the result is valuable. Perhaps the most striking feature of the Church in these centuries is her capacity to endure persecution. How great that capacity has been will probably be unfamiliar to those who have not read this book.

MICHAEL COOK

PAROLE DE DIEU ET LITURGIE. *Lex Orandi*, No. 25 (Cerf.)

INITIATION A LA LITURGIE. Par I. H. Dalmais, O.P. Cahiers de la Pierre-
Qui-Vire (Desclée; 105 fr. B.)

OUR MASS. By Mgr Chevrot. Translated by J. Holland Smith.
(Challoner Publications; 21s.)

PAROLE ET MISSION. *Revue de Theologie Missionnaire*. (Cerf; 250 fr.
each issue.)

The third National Congress of the Centre de Pastorale Liturgique, held at Strasbourg in 1957, was devoted to the Bible and the Liturgy, and its proceedings now appear in the *Lex Orandi* series, which has already provided so many essential documents for the contemporary liturgical revival. It reflects a deepening concern with the perennial roots of the liturgy rather than with adaptations and methods of participation which, perhaps inevitably, marked the early stages of the movement. Its value certainly extends far beyond the occasion of a congress.

It is only possible here to give some idea of the extent of this discussion on the Sacred Scriptures in relation to the Church's worship. Abbé Jounel gives a useful summary of the use of the Bible in the sacred rites, of East and West alike. Père Daniélou gives his customary authority to a paper on 'The Sacraments and the History of Salvation', stressing the complementary meaning of Bible and Liturgy, each illuminating the other. Dr Urs von Balthasar writes on 'God has spoken a human language' and finds in the Liturgy the continuing speech of the Incarnate Lord.

The pastoral application of this radical understanding of the biblical foundations of liturgical worship is suggested by Père Bouyer and Père Roguet, and further papers discuss the catechetical importance of a living acquaintance with the great biblical themes. The Bishop of

Meissen, in Eastern Germany, who made so profound an impression on those who heard him at the great Assisi Congress of 1956, gives a moving account of the life of the liturgy under Communist persecution.

Père Dalmais, who is a professor at the Institut Supérieur de Liturgie de Paris, provides in his *Initiation* not only a useful account of liturgical rites and ceremonies, with their history and distribution, but a valuable theology of the Liturgy, seeing in it the meeting of God and man through Jesus Christ and, in consequence, the coming together of men among themselves. This double mystery is indeed that of the Church herself, and Père Dalmais's book is profoundly original essay in the sense that it goes back to the origins of liturgical worship, not simply in terms of texts and terminology but in terms of the mystery of the Church which the Liturgy exists to proclaim.

Mgr Chevrot, for many years parish priest of St François-Xavier in Paris, had a great gift for the popular exposition of the Liturgy; and *Our Mass* consists of thirty-six chapters which cover the Mass step by step, providing historical references as well as straightforward explanations of the words and ceremonies themselves. It will be invaluable to priests who wish—as every priest must surely wish—to preach as it were in depth on the Mass, for Mgr Chevrot combines an acute pastoral sense with much learning.

It is a pleasure to welcome the first issues of *Parole et Mission*, 'a review of missionary theology'.

ILLTUD EVANS, O.P.

THE APPROACH TO PENANCE. By Hubert van Zeller. (Sheed and Ward; 7s. 6d.)

THE APPROACH TO PRAYER. By Hubert van Zeller. (Sheed and Ward; 10s. 6d.)

These two books are marked by the positive and constructive spirit that is typical of all Dom Hubert's writing. Religion is not a technique but a life to be lived that makes a man more of a man while it makes him more godlike. There is more to it than a list of do's and don't's and rules of thumb. All the time we are being led onwards and inwards to see more of human life and what makes a man tick. So the key to penance is love, not techniques. No amount of turning in on ourselves and scratching away at our dominant weakness will alone generate in us the spirit of penance. The first three sentences of the book put us on the right trail. 'People are discouraged from approaching penance because they see it from the wrong angle. They think at once of what they will have to do in the way of disagreeable hardship. If they thought of it as turning wholly to God, which is to see it from the right angle, they would be more ready to pursue its implications.' Again, 'The only kind of penitence which is worth anything is conversion. Not con-