

## NOTICES

This book has all the good points of the first. The pieces—fourteen in number—are so arranged that they can be shortened or lengthened as the organist wishes. Six of these fourteen are based on particular antiphons or hymns of the chant. They are printed on two staves so that they can be played either with or without pedals; and the notation is large and clear—an important point when even on a moderately-sized organ the music is usually some distance from the player. Finally in *Interlude XXVIII* Dom Gregory has given us a piece in hymn form with words and music: an *Ave Maria* in four verses, to be sung in unison. This is a pleasing addition to the voluntaries and good use could be made of many suchlike pieces as Benediction motets and the like. We may well hope to see more compositions of this kind to take the place of some of the more tempestuous attempts at Polyphony in five parts with a Soprano and a Bass!

GERARD MEATH, O.P.

INTERVAL BEFORE BIRTH. By N. S. Leitch. (Heinemann; 7/6.)

*Interval Before Birth* has its setting on a headland beyond a small fishing town somewhere beneath Les Maures. Mlle. de Tellousac dies there sometime in the 1920's, and her country house is purchased and restored by Iseult Thomas, whose husband has grown rich from electric light bulbs. The framework of the story is formed by the reactions of a neighbouring peasant family to the contrasted influence of the successive owners of the château. An integrally Catholic novel, it shares three characteristics with the author's earlier work; a sensitive prose, a quick perception of the implicit in human relationship, a clear pale light. It was fortunate that these are just the traits to throw into relief the poised, nerve-driven eroticism of Madame Thomas, vividly, unforgettably alive. It is this union of realism with the expression of the undertones of feeling which renders *Interval Before Birth* so remote from the older convention of Catholic fiction with its wooden puppet play and the corrugated iron of its ethic and the loud blare of its didactic moral. Yet it too has its traditions, and through its recognition of the significance of the confessional for ordinary Catholic life it is linked, quite unexpectedly, with the greatest of Catholic novels, *The Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man*.

GERVASE MATHEW, O.P.

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DE FIDE—Praellectiones scholasticae in Secundam Partem D. Thomae. By P. Lumbreras, O.P. (Angelicum, Rome; 12 lire.)

The fruit of many years' teaching, this short but clear and scholarly exposition of the doctrine contained in the first sixteen

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questions of the *zazae* is published as an aid to students of St. Thomas, and aims at a presentation of the subject which will satisfy the requirements of the Apostolic Constitution *Deus Scientiarum Dominus*. There are points of controversy, notably concerning the evolution of dogma, on which the author does not discuss fully the views which differ from his own, but he is perhaps justified by the scope of the work. In an earlier fascicule of the series Fr. Lumberras explained that it was not his intention to free students from the need of studying the text of St. Thomas, but rather to prepare the way for a deeper understanding of it. It might be questioned whether this laudable object is best attained by the form in which the *praelectiones* are given, since the *résumé* of doctrine and the necessary explanations and glosses together form a complete and satisfying treatise.

B. O'D.

OEUVRES PRINCIPALES DE KIERKEGAARD, traduits du Danois par P.-H. Tisseu, Lecteur à l'Université de Lund.

Had Kierkegaard written in some more widely understood language than his native "dialect" (as he himself called it), the deliverance of European culture from immanentist ways of thinking might have been both speedier and less painful than now seems possible. English readers whose appetites have been whetted by Mr. Swenson's translation of *Philosophical Fragments*, reviewed recently in BLACKFRIARS, but who are unable to read Danish, may be interested to know that most of Kierkegaard's works are now available very cheaply in admirable French translations. Of these we have received *L'Ecole du Christianisme* (25 frs.), *La Pureté du Coeur* (15 frs.), *Le Droit de Mourir pour la Vérité et La Génie de L'Apôtre* (10 frs.), *Pour un Examen de Conscience* (10 frs.), *Le Souverain Sacrificateur, Le Péager et La Pécheresse* (5 frs.). The content of these works, as well as their great interest and importance, will be known to readers of the Introduction to Mr. Swenson's recent work. We are in no position to be able to compare these translations with the originals, but they show every sign of having been accomplished with all possible care and devotion, and are eminently readable. They are obtainable direct from the translator: Monsieur P.-H. Tisseu, Bazoges-en-Pareds, Vendée, France.

V. W.

MOSCOW THE THIRD ROME. By Nicholas Zernov, D.Phil. (S.P.C.K.; 2/6.)

The story of Russia is before all else the story of *Holy Russia*; that innate religiousness of the Russian people is the dominating factor in all their history. And in this book, which is a history of Christian Russia from A.D. 988 to the present day,

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that all-important characteristic is by no means buried in a welter of facts—though historical detail is not lacking. As a piece of history the book is admirable; it will also prove a happy hunting ground for the apologist and the liturgiologist. But above all to-day it will repay study by the student of the Communist State of Soviet Russia. The facts of history bear witness that the deeply religious character of the authentic Russian people must ultimately dominate—and perhaps this is also an accurate reading of the signs of the times.

G. A. M.

### BOOKS RECEIVED

- ANGELICUM: (Rome) *De Veneratione Divini Cordis Jesu in Ordine Praedicatorum*, P. A. Walz, O.P., S.T.D. (pp. 130, n.p.)
- BURNS OATES: *Pedant Poems*, Neville Watts (2/6).
- CATHOLIC SOCIAL GUILD: (Oxford) (for *New Review*, Calcutta) *Marxism*, Cyril J. Clump, S.J. (1/4 post free).
- COLDWELL: *Mid Snow and Ice*, Pierre Douchaussois (3/6);  
*The Church of the Multiplying of the Loaves and Fishes*, Alfons M. Schneider, ed. A. A. Gordon (15/-);  
*Synopsis Latina Quattuor Evangeliorum secundum vulgatum editionem*, Johannes Perk, Sal. Soc. Sac. (5/6);  
*Hours of Contemplation*, Adalbert Brennkmeier, D.D. (2/6);  
*The Good Master*, Dr. I. Klug (4/-);  
*The Kingship of Christ*, Mgr. Dr. Tihamer Toth (6/-);  
*A Life of Light* (Sr. Mary Bonaventure Fink), A Sister of Notre Dame (6/-);  
*Hidden Apostles*, Pierre Douchaussois (3/6).
- DENT: *The Life of Jesus*, Conrad Noel (12/6).
- DESCLEE DE BROUWER: (Paris) *Au dela du Machinisme*, Marcel Malcor (23 B.frs.)
- EDITIONS DU CERF: (Paris) *Chrétiens Désunis: Principes d'un "Oecuménisme" Catholique*, M.-J. Congar, O.P. (35 frs.)
- GREGORIANUM: (Rome) *Epistolarum Romanorum Pontificum ad vicarios per Illyricum aliosque Episcopos Collectio Thessalonicensis* (Textus et Documenta, Series Theologica, 23) ed. C. Silva-Taronea, S.J. (pp. xvi, 87; n.p.)
- HERDER: (Freiburg i.B.) *Heimweh nach Gott*, Pieter van der Meer de Walcheren (RM. 3.20, 4.40),  
*Die guten Werke des Herrn Vinzenz*, Leo Weismantel (RM. 2.40, 3.50);  
*Die Heilige Schrift für das Leben erklärt*, Band XV;  
*Die kleinen Paulusbriefe: Die Gesangenschaftbriefe*, Dr. Peter Ketter. *Die Briefe an die Galater, Thessalonicher und die Pastoralbriefe*, Dr. Heinrich Molitor (RM. 8.40, 11.20, 13.40).
- SANDS: *St. Augustine of Hippo*, Hugh Pope, O.P. (12/6.)
- SHEED & WARD: *Shaw: George versus Bernard*, J. P. Hackett (6/-).

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