

MORAL THEOLOGY. By H. Jone, O.F.M.Cap., J.C.D. Translated and adapted by U. Adelman, O.F.M.Cap., J.C.D. (Mercier Press; 17s. 6d.)

In the preface to the original German edition of this work, the author wrote that it was intended in the first place for those engaged in parish work. In addition he hoped that it would be of use to those priests and clerical students who may be preparing for examinations in moral theology. The author then wrote that 'he will be happy to know that his book is of benefit to the educated laity, interested in religious matters, whom it may help in solving such questions of conscience as occur in their daily life'.

There are already several 'pocket' Moral Theology treatises written in Latin, and it is to be presumed that all those engaged on parish work or in preparing for theological examinations are fully capable of using these Latin volumes. Moreover, theological students have been trained in the principles underlying these very potted statements of moral practice. The layman, however, has had no such training, and it is to be presumed that such a volume as this will have a considerable sale among lay folk. The wisdom of placing such a volume in the hands of the theologically uneducated is certainly a matter for debate and, for our part, we believe that it will not help to solve questions of conscience, but rather give rise to them. The book is full of 'cases', and without an adequate knowledge of the principles which are the foundation for their solution, they will very probably give rise to misunderstanding, and, indeed, may even bring the moral teaching of the Church into contempt when 'casuistic mathematics' are used for the solution. The idea of the 'penal' law is put forward as a matter of fact, there is a tendency to call certain actions 'only venially sinful', and the whole of the treatise *De Sexto* is put before any reader, in English, and in a necessarily abbreviated and factual way.

B. D. BAILEY, O.P.

BREVIARIUM ROMANUM: four volumes (Burns Oates, £5 5s. 0d.; with diocesan supplement, £6 6s. 0d.)

On its first appearance two years ago the Burns Oates Breviary was justly praised. It was bound in a choice of leathers traditional to liturgical books, and its cost was accordingly high. The identical work is now available in a sturdy red buckram binding which justifies the publishers' title, 'The Bookshelf Breviary'. Here once and for all is resolved the dilemma of priests who recite their office in the Underground and who wish to avoid the biblical castigation reserved for those who ostentatiously pray in public places. This Breviary might be a pocket edition of any poet: its contents are certainly more durable.

The new edition will be of special value to the laity, for whom the Breviary in appearance and association is too often an exclu-