

## REVIEWS

PRIESTHOOD AND PRAYER. By Bede Frost, O.S.B. (Mowbray and Co., Ltd.; pp. 220; 7/6.)

The purpose of this book, as the author states in the preface, is to insist upon the true nature of the Christian priesthood as essentially one with the priesthood of our Lord; secondly, to show the meaning of that priesthood as exercised by those who continue it here upon earth; thirdly, to point out that the whole value of the apostolate of souls depends upon and flows from the priest's living union with his Divine Master; and finally to emphasize the need not only of prayer but of prayer that is progressively more contemplative.

It is a book which is admirable not only in scope and purpose, but also in the competent manner in which the author has treated his subject. Father Bede Frost is widely read in Roman Catholic dogmatic and mystical theology. His lengthy bibliography contains, with several unimportant exceptions, the names only of writers who are of the fold. In consequence one will find little or nothing which is necessarily objectionable to a Roman Catholic from a viewpoint of doctrine. He writes, moreover, with a persuasive sincerity of manner which will commend him to those who are seeking more than intellectual exercise in their theology.

Life being what it is, it is not easy to share the author's high hopes for the penetrating intellectual vision into things divine that will come to the overworked parish priest who, with an hour a day at his disposal, sets himself to give a quarter of it to Holy Scripture, and other quarters to St. Thomas, St. Augustine, and to some big modern book—theology, science, biography. It is so very much like the liberal education promised to those who buy Dr. Elliot's Five Foot Shelf of Books and burrow through it, a few pages each day.

Footnotes, references, quotations abound, sometimes to the point of irritation. Our zeal for scholarship and reverence for authority often make us appear just a little absurd. Books of this sort seldom make voluptuous reading: why break into a passably readable page with unnecessary and platitudinous citations of our masters?

P.K.M.

LA COMMUNION MÉDITÉE AU PIED DU ST. SACRAMENT. Par A. Jos. Chauvin. (Deslée de Brouwer et Cie; pp. 758; 13 fr.)

This is the third book of meditations before the Blessed Sacrament by this author, and it follows logically after those on the Passion and the Mass. It includes the whole doctrine of Communion from many points of view, while the frequent