

I should like to make a comment on Father Van Straelen's book *The Catholic Encounter with World Religions*, reviewed by Agnes Yendell in your February number.

Reading it myself I was greatly surprised to discover in various places my own sentences (at times slightly twisted), simply stolen by the author without any acknowledgement. In all he has lifted a good sixty lines from my article 'Missionary Thinking in the Context of Today', *New Blackfriars*, August 1965. The references are as follows:

V.S. p. 26, 15 lines from N.B., pp. 630 and 631.

V.S. p. 65, 12 lines from N.B., p. 636.

V.S. p. 71, 21 lines from N.B., pp. 631 and 632.

V.S. p. 145, 12 lines from N.B., p. 639.

My name appears nowhere in his book.

The dust cover tells us that the fifth chapter on 'The Council and the Missions' "was written specially for this book". How curious when reading twenty-two pages of this chapter to find that no less than eight of them have again been lifted bodily from a writing of Father de Tourigny, W.F. There is, of course, no mention of Fr de Tourigny anywhere.

As we are rightly told on the cover Fr Van Straelen, who is a Ph.D. of Cambridge, a Professor of Philosophy, etc., 'always produces something fresh and new'.

How odd too that the book, which includes some long quotations from Cardinal Heenan, was nominated by the Cardinal in the *Catholic Herald* as his 'Book of the Year' for 1965. This also we are told on the dust cover. Nevertheless the (Westminster) Imprimatur is dated 17 January 1966 and the Introduction 2 February 1966. How can that be?

ADRIAN HASTINGS.