

lightening. In each psalm, or part of a psalm, he finds material for meditations upon the whole of the priestly life. They are full of holy wisdom, frank, sometimes trenchant, always to the point. If they wander far from the subject-matter of the psalm, that is the price to be paid for such treatment. Perhaps, too, there are one or two Old Wives' saws that might have been omitted and in the next edition we hope the Latin text will be treated more respectfully by the printers.

Naturally in a book of this size, only the Sunday psalms could be treated, but there is enough here to be grateful for. For once, we are happy to say, this is a book that can in no way be recommended to the laity. It is a book by a priest, a wise old priest, written for his brother-priests.

J. D. CRICHTON.

VANISHING HOMESTEADS. By Rev. E. Schmiedler, O.S.B., Ph.D.

THE POPE AND CHRISTIAN CITIZENSHIP. By Rev. F. J. Boland, C.S.C.

DESIGNS FOR SOCIAL ACTION. By Rev. J. M. Hayes, S.T.D.

(N.C.W.C., 1312 Massachusetts Avenue NW, Washington, D.C.;  
5 cents each.)

Fr. Schmiedler, leader of the Catholic Rural Life movement in the U.S.A., takes a pessimistic view of the growth of latifundia and of the mechanisation of farms. Apparently the 'corporation' technique is beginning to manifest itself in farming, and it precipitates two interlocking problems: how to preserve the small homestead, and how to keep up the rural population. The author's suggestion of buying machinery by farmers' co-operatives should go a long way to solving the first problem but can scarcely be expected to ameliorate the second.

The second of the pamphlets is a handy compilation of papal dicta on citizenship from Leo XIII to Pius XII. Not least in value is the index of no less than two hundred items. Fr. Hayes provides an interesting survey of such citizenship in action, the methods used by Catholics in the U.S.A. to come to grips with the social problem. It would seem that Dorothy Day's *Catholic Worker* is outside the pale because it is not mentioned.

J.F.

REFLECTIONS OF THE ISLE OF BARRA. By Donald Buchanan. (Sands, 7s. 6d.)

Had the author kept to description of life in Barra as it was sixty years ago and as it is now, this would have been a very good book. In his pages on the island and its people, Dr. Buchanan is refreshingly candid, and free from the poetic prose and sticky sentiment which mark so many books about the Highlands. He does not minimise, for example, the demoralising effect which the 'dole'