

ZEUGNIS FÜR CHRISTUS. By Eucharius Berbuir. (Herder, Freiburg, 1949; DM.8.50.)

This book of 218 pages is an intimate study of the prologue of St John's Gospel (1, 1-18). It is the text, it would seem, of notes for the guidance of a study-circle given by a young Franciscan Father during the summer of 1946 at a German prisoner-of-war camp in France. As was done about the same time in England, a camp was set aside for theological students and priests who had been conscripted into the German army to enable them even as prisoners-of-war to continue in some way their studies. Such a camp was that at Chartres, and here Fr Berbuir, himself a prisoner-of-war, guided the theological studies of his 'Kameraden'. And this book, which bears his Provincial's *imprimatur* of 1947 but has only just appeared in print, is the result of this work. They were of course short of books of reference and the author gives in a preface a touching little bibliography of what was to hand. The absence of books compelled them to trust simply in the guidance of the Holy Spirit to lead them to 'the depth of the riches of the wisdom and of the knowledge of God', for as the author writes, 'the Spirit searcheth all things, yea the deep things of God . . . we have received not the spirit of this world, but the Spirit that is of God: that we may know the things that are given us from God'. The method then was 'simply to try and understand and explain what was there in the text' (p. 1), a method sure to find much in a subject like St John's prologue. So they take each word (in the Greek) lovingly in turn, each phrase, each sentence, and plumb its depths as far as they are able. They are strict and not fanciful, they interpret Scripture by Scripture, and all the time they are intent on understanding the full meaning, on seeing Christ, and bringing him through the Holy Word into their own souls and so bringing him into this wrecked world—a wreckage that was physically and poignantly present to them all the time. Thus they were trying to learn how to give 'testimony of Christ' in the world—these words being adapted from the prologue to form the title of the book. The whole book is dedicated to the French priest Abbé Le Meur, who had been put in charge of the spiritual welfare of the prisoners-of-war in France, and the dedication is made in the name of all his companions. The fact of this dedication by a German ex-soldier to a French abbé is a treasure indeed. And apart from the value of its intrinsic devotion, this book is a lovely memorial to the piety of the Catholic German soldiers, which those of us who worked among them came to know so well.

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ON ENGLISHING THE BIBLE. By Ronald A. Knox. (Burns Oates and Washbourne; 6s.)

In course of the years spent in producing his translation of the Old and New Testaments Mgr Knox published a number of articles