

in the combat. This is a book to be meditated; a book which, on account of its spiritual application to our own times, deserves to be widely known. Walter Oden is to be congratulated on the excellent translation which offers it to English-speaking people; while Michael Ayrton's striking illustrations serve to emphasise its allegorical aspect.

In a book of such distinction it is, however, a pity to find technical errors in some of the references to Dominicans. It would be well to correct these in subsequent editions.

S.M.C.

THE NICHE OVER THE DOOR. By Mary K. Harris. (Sheed and Ward; 6s.)

This is one of the best Catholic children's books that has come our way for some time. Mary Harris understands children and writes for them as though they were rational beings, which is a rare virtue among children's authors, and one immediately appreciated by the children themselves.

S.M.F.

THE VEIL UPON THE HEART. By the Reverend G. Byrne, S.J. (M. S. Gill, Dublin; 5s.)

This is a book of great charm. It is beautifully written and well and pleasantly printed. It consists of eighteen chapters. We might describe them as spiritual essays. According to the 'blurb' on the jacket, it is a book on private prayer. We would rather describe it as a book which by its nature and its doctrinal contents led us to prayer. This it certainly does.

G.B.

THE FORERUNNER. By Teresa Lloyd. (Sands; n.p.)

The familiar Gospel story of St John the Baptist in a poetic setting. He who like the Master was from first to last 'led by the Spirit' through all the vicissitudes of the spiritual life is ever the model of all who sincerely seek to follow our Lord more closely, most of all of those who have to guide others in that way. To some of these this poem may show old truths in a fresh light.

S. M. A.

CHRIST IS ALL. By John Carr, C.S.S.R. (Sands; 5s.)

This is a sincerely written little book, addressed primarily to Catholics. It is 'chiefly of a moral and devotional nature intended to make belief in our Lord more vivid'. Generally it follows well-worn and pedestrian lines, which many may feel to be but an echo of what they have many times heard. We are not sure that the argument is cogent enough to carry conviction to the well-educated unbeliever. The use of scriptural texts as mere tags is lamentable. Surely the inner meaning of John 6, 58 can only be grasped when

the words that have gone before are taken into account. Our Lord's teaching is that the living bread of the Holy Eucharist is to make us as dependent on him for our life as he is on the Father. Again to identify the Kingdom of God over which Christ is sovereign, with the one true Church, is an inadequate account of the gospel of the kingdom, which was one of the main subjects of our Lord's preaching.

The book, however, may be recommended to those who require no more than an elementary exposition of their faith.

A. F.

DAS VERBORGENE ANTLITZ. Eine Studie ueber Therese von Lisieux. By Ida Friederike Goerres. (Herder, Wien, 1948. 525 pp.)

This is a rather unusual book which presents a picture of St Therese of Lisieux devoid of the sugary piety so often connected with her. The author gives a painstaking analysis of her life and character, emphasising her ordinariness and taking quite literally her own admission that she was only a 'little soul'. Her natural limitations are treated with great frankness, but only to hold up to our admiration the merciless struggle by which she overcame them. There is a certain rationalising tendency in the book, for example in the treatment of Therese's cure by the smile of our Lady; but it seems that this, as well as the copious citations from German literature, is really meant chiefly for the consumption of the German highbrow public. If these and certain lengthy psychological discussions were removed, the book might be well worth translating.

H. C. G.

GABRIEL WAS A TROUBADOUR. By Pdraig O'Horan. (Mowbrays; 5s.)

A book full of Christmas joy. More than forty poems, simple thoughts of the sublime theme, and ten attractively fresh illustrations make this neat volume a delightful present for anyone who can read, or be read to.

SISTER M. ANSGAR.

THE BOOK OF SAINTS. Compiled by the Benedictine Monks of St Augustine's Abbey, Ramsgate. (Black; 25s.)

The dictionary of saints produced by the Benedictines of Ramsgate was first published in 1921, under the general editorship of the late Abbot Thomas Bergh. It was the first thing of its kind in English, and it had a well-deserved success, running to second and third editions. For the fourth edition, now published, the book has been rewritten and revised entry by entry and considerably enlarged.

To review a work of this kind is not easy: there seems to be no middle term between generalities and going through it with a comb for errors and omissions. The editor's aim was of course to bring