

who speaks might have kept silent is essential to personal communication; so the contingency of historical events is appropriate to the revelation of a personal God. Of all known historical persons, Jesus seems the most plausible manifestation of the divine, both in his acts and in the claims he made for himself.

Scheler's Achilles heel is his theory of the intuitive certainty of religious and moral knowledge, which is particularly vulnerable to neo-positivism with its canons of verification. But this facet of his thought can be modified without damage to his argument as a whole.

Bernard Noble's translation is clear and readable, and the frank confession where paraphrase has had to be resorted to, invites the reader's confidence as to its overall accuracy.

HUGO MEYNELL

THE FAMILY BOOK. By Rosemary Haughton. (Darton, Longman and Todd; 6s.)

OUR LORD'S LIFE. By Amelia Tondini Melgari. Translated by Joy Mary Merruzi. (Oldbourne Press; 25s.)

BERNADETTE. By G. B. Stern. (Nelson; 12s. 6d.)

1. 'It is not your job to pick the fruit, it is your job to keep on planting the seed!' is the final piece of advice from this mother of six. Illustrated with her own pen-and-ink sketches, this excellent small book is packed with suggestions as to how Catholic parents can 'plant the seed' of the love of God in their children. A homely outline of all essential Christian doctrine, it is enlivened with many practical examples of how one Catholic family live out their faith. Particularly stimulating are their celebrations of the feasts and fasts of the liturgical year, and the ways in which they teach their children to grow from infancy in understanding of prayer, the sacraments, the mass—and sin. Though addressed throughout to parents, the extreme simplicity of language and illustration leads one to suppose that the older children are expected to read the book over their parents' shoulders.

2. The text of this life of Christ for children of any age is in the main very readable. The slightly stilted or jejune passages probably derive from the translation. It might have been more lively if at least all direct speech instead of being paraphrased had been rendered in a known English version. The illustrations dominate the narrative—there's a large one on every page. Some of these will hardly fail to please. They are extremely colourful, well drawn and dramatic. A few may be too frightening for younger readers. This is a finely produced book that practically all will appreciate once past the lurid dust-cover.

3. For children of about ten to fourteen years old this is an excellent introduction to the life of St Bernadette and an antidote to the more sentimental 'ballads' about Lourdes. As might be expected of such an author, it is a tale exceptionally well told—exciting, direct and comprehensive without being long. Some may not like the Turneresque illustrations, but do not be put off buying this for young friends and relations.

ANN HALES-TOOKE

NOTICES

GRACE AND GLORY, by E. L. Mascall (with a foreword by the Archbishop of York; Faith Press; 5s.), is a meditative study of some aspects of the life of heaven, in terms of the Christian's experience of its beginning here on earth. It is an admirable example of how deeply theological ideas can be made comprehensible and relevant to lay people when they are already so to the theologian.

THE THEOLOGY OF THE GOSPEL OF THOMAS, by Bertil Gartner (Collins; 21s.), is a learned study of the text by the Assistant Professor in theology at Uppsala. The author develops an account of the theology implied in the gospel, and relates it to gnostic thought.

LA VIE ET LA DOCTRINE SPIRITUELLE DU PÈRE LALLEMENT is the first of a new collection (entitled *Christus*) published by Desclée de Brouwer (120 FB). It is finely edited, with helpful yet unobtrusive notes and a forty-page introduction, by François Courel, S.J.

PROGRESS THROUGH MENTAL PRAYER, by Edward Leen, C.S.SP. (18s.) and TWO HUNDRED EVENING SERMON NOTES (27s. 6d.) by Canon Drinkwater are reprints by Thomas More Books of works that originally appeared in 1935 and 1928 respectively. It is no fault of the authors that the outlook of this time now seems 'dated'; it is a measure of the great resurgence of doctrinal and scriptural understanding since that time. The preacher in particular must ask himself if he *ought* to be saying just what he did thirty years ago. In view of this the price of the second book in particular (260 pp. long) seems astonishingly high.

THE CHURCH AND THE BIBLE, by the Abbot of Downside, reviewed on page 330 of the January issue, was incorrectly stated to have been published by the Helicon Press. They are in fact the American publishers; in this country it is put out by Darton, Longman and Todd.

L.B.