

agrees with certain Catholic truths and dogmas, the author whenever he deals with Catholic sources does so sympathetically.

In the opening chapter the author discusses the nature of prayer, which finds its perfection for him in the Our Father, and gives a brief history of the development of prayer through the centuries. Chapters dealing with the Prayer of the Mind (Meditation), of the Heart (Affective Prayer) and of the Will (Adoration and Intercession) touch on aspects of prayer familiar to all; but the treatment of these aspects never makes for dull reading, for by a happy turn of phrase, by apposite quotation and example he succeeds in conveying to the reader his own conviction of the urgent need of prayer in the life of all who aspire to Christian ideals. Especially helpful is the chapter on Recollection. The last chapter 'Praying with the Church' falls short of the standard set in the previous chapters.

TERENCE NETHERWAY, O.P.

READING BETWEEN THE LINES. The Third Theophila Correspondence. By Ferdinand Valentine, O.P. (Blackfriars Publications; 6s.)

The 'Lines' in question are those of St John's Gospel from which Father Valentine selects nine incidents as the subject of this third series of letters to 'Theophila'. The spiritual teaching which he gleans from the words of the gospel is based on a sound exegesis of the literal meaning of the sacred text, and for this he makes considerable use of the explanations and suggestions put forward by the leading commentators: Lagrange, Westcott and Edersheim being perhaps the most frequently quoted. There can be no doubt that the book will appeal to the happily increasing number of those who would build their spiritual life on the solid foundation of Holy Scripture, and who perhaps lack the time or the opportunity to study full-length commentaries where the doctrinal portions have often to be picked out from a surrounding mass of learned detail. Two misprints in proper names may be noted: Prohaszka is twice spelt Pronaszka, and, on p. 124, mention is made of Hermon the Cripple!

G. D. S.

THE DIVINE CRUCIBLE. By Mother Mary of St Austin, Helper of the Holy Souls. Revised and Edited by Nicholas Ryan, S.J. (Burns Oates; 12s. 6d.)

This book has worn excellently since it was first published eight years ago, and we hope that its reappearance in a new edition means that there is a sustained demand for it. It is the work of a missionary, a student and a poet whose singleness of mind did not narrow her spiritual interests but reached out to fructify every subject it met with. Hence we are presented with worthwhile discourses on the Trinity, the Incarnation, the Blessed Sacrament,