

her confessor and says: 'Sir, rejoice with me, I have become God', and he, with what we may think a commendable composure, replies: 'God be praised for it. Now depart from the crowd and return to your solitude: and if you become God again, I shall rejoice again with you.' But we must read this in connection with what follows, with the exposition of the 'five deaths which men must die', which tells us in so many words that man cannot come to the Father except by the Son, and that any kind of 'deification' which he achieves is wrought by grace and not by nature. Or, again, we may take the later passage in which Katrei, worn out by her life of denial and affliction, seeks the confessor's guidance and is told that she should live at ease, denying her body nothing, caring only for herself: we expect Katrei to show indignation or bewilderment, but instead she tranquilly answers that she knows this counsel to be good, but that she knows her own way of life to be for her still better. If we take the confessor's words as teaching Manichean dualism, we shall be wrong: and Katrei, who knows that there is nothing more in his words than a statement that all her voluntary works of mortification are in themselves no better than natural man's self-indulgence, shows us that we are wrong. *Sister Katrei* cannot fail today to give to the uninitiated as great scandal as such teachings gave six hundred years ago to those who believed, as Tauler was later to say, that when Eckhart spoke of the things of eternity he was telling them of this present life; but all who are concerned to know, not only what Eckhart said (and what his detractors then and some of his later admirers have said that he said) but what he meant by his saying, will find this little work of great help.

ERIC COLLEDGE

THE PRAYERS OF FATHER VINCENT McNABB, O.P. Edited with a Foreword by Fr Donald Proudman, O.P. (Blackfriars Publications; 6s. 6d.)

Most of the prayers in this little collection were spontaneous outpourings during retreats and sermons, and taken down by a reporter: they are to be found scattered among Fr Vincent's books. But besides these extempore utterances he composed many prayers of set purpose and put them down in writing. Only a fraction of these appear in this book, and something much more substantial could have been made if they had all been gathered together. The noble prayer on pages 49-50 is not Fr Vincent's. It was quoted by him in *The Path of Prayer* and he tells how it was discovered among the papers of the young Prince Imperial, the Empress Eugenie's son, who was killed in action in Zululand.

The writing of prayers is a rare and difficult art. Many of Fr Vincent's friends and admirers will be glad to have these written and spoken prayers which breathe the spirit of a man of prayer and are full of the poetry of a lovely character.

B.D.