

However, these points are open to discussion, for which, no doubt, there was not time during the original talks. And they in no way lessen the value of the book, which is most interesting, inspiring, exemplary and encouraging.

BERNARD GOODE.

THE GOD OF THE CHRISTIANS. By Dom Augustine Morris. (The Dacre Press; 5s.)

This book is a plain statement of the Christian belief in God, and as this it is valuable and highly successful. It is written for those who have a vague belief in God as Ruler of the Universe, but little more; who turn to God in a crisis, but seldom or never at any other time. It would not convince an agnostic or open the eyes of an atheist—to them it would seem to beg the question; but it does not set out to do this; the purpose of it is to explain lucidly what the Christian Faith teaches about God.

Whether this book will be read much by those for whom it seems intended, is doubtful. We believe the author to be too sanguine in thinking that no one can altogether escape wondering what is the purpose of life and whether there is a God. The vast majority of men and women seem to go through life quite unconcerned about God so long as their bellies are filled and their appetites are satisfied. If the average man or woman of our era turns to God at all, it is only as a last resort, as something that will not do any harm and might do some good. If people could only be stirred to think, the battle would be half-won. But whether this book will be read by many or by few, certain it is that no one could read it without profit. We ourselves could not put it down, and sat up late into the night to finish it.

Every chapter, almost every page has something good, the whole book is steeped with fundamental truths that should be obvious and well known, but, even by Catholics, are too often neglected and forgotten. We cannot resist from quoting a few passages taken at random: 'It is not petition but adoration which is the most essential element in prayer'; 'The woman who wastes time in observing a glorious sunset, time which ought to have been spent in visiting a sick friend is by no means growing in the love of God. The married couple who invest in a car to enjoy the beauties of nature instead of having a baby are worshipping themselves rather than God'; 'God's liberty is in no way limited but greatly augmented by the fact that he cannot sin'; 'The special characteristic of a holy man is that the actions of his life are deliberately directed towards God and performed in constant dependence upon his grace. An atheist may be a good man; but no man can be holy unless he is a man of prayer'. All this is excellent and needs saying, and there is much more of the same.

BRUNO S. JAMES.

#### ERRATUM

In the October issue, page 120, paragraph 2, from St Jerome on Purgatory, read: The Seraphim . . . are also sent . . . to those who need purification, and who, for the sins of their former life, ~~need~~ *need purgation by punishment* (Ep. xviii, 9).