

PREAMBULE A L'ACTE DE FOI. By A. Lyonnet. (Lethielleux; 100frs.)
 QU'EST-CE QU'UN CATHOLIQUE? By R. P. E. Delaye, S.J. (Editions
 Spes; 300frs.)

The *Préambule* is the outcome of discussions between the author and his fellow prisoners of war during the Nazi domination. In the camps he visited, or in which he was compelled to live, the Abbé Lyonnet found men willing to argue about God: either because they felt argument would lend weight and point to their rejection and denial of him, or because, believing after a fashion in God, they were mystified, even rebellious that he should treat them so, or, again, they talked of God because there was nothing else to talk about that would enable them temporarily to forget their present plight. Of those many questions and debates the author now issues his notes, so that the book has the air of urgency and pressing need he felt at the time for the souls of his fellow prisoners, and which he experiences now for the souls of those who have returned from the camps to the disappointment and frustration of post-war life. The truth of God is here set forth in a manner that corresponds and meets the doubts, anxieties and perplexities that probe many a heart and mind.

In *Qu'est-ce qu'un Catholique?* we find expounded the same truths, but in a very different manner. Père Delaye has in mind a much wider and more mixed public. The arguments he advances are more comprehensive, more developed. This is a volume which is the result of many more years of careful thought and reading, and painstaking assessment of material and data. This does not imply that the reader will encounter teaching that is ponderous, heavy, unwieldy. Indeed, the merit of the book is nowhere more apparent than in the skill Père Delaye displays in rendering tractable and explicit what, in less competent hands, might well have remained obscure and puzzling. On the other hand, the reader must not expect to find all the difficulties swept away, and everything simplified and rendered easy. Such can only arise when the examination of revealed truth is superficial and shallow, whereas in this book we are given what makes for penetration and reflection.

TERENCE NETHERWAY, O.P.

DAS SEELENLEBEN DES HEILIGEN THOMAS VON AQUIN. By Martin Grabman. (Paulus Verlag, Fribourg, Switzerland; n.p.)

The sources for a study of the personal holiness of St Thomas would appear to be very scanty: the acts of his canonisation, a few letters and his magnificent but remarkably impersonal writings. The late Dr Grabmann, however, after a life-time of loving research had acquired a deep understanding of the spirit behind the writings and here in this his last slender volume sketched a convincing, delicate and wholly attractive picture of the spiritual life of his great master. It is in fact the third edition of a book which first