

NOTICES

TIP-TOE ON A HILL. By T. P. Wood. (Rich and Cowan; 7/6 net.)

It is a pleasant change to find a book recording simple facts simply. To grown-ups numerous little incidents of childhood have no meaning. It is otherwise for the child. The author shows a remarkable insight into a child's mentality, and Peter stands out as a very likable boy with moods and humours which are not fictitious. The story of his life is charmingly told, and the narrative never fails to hold the reader's attention. Mr. Wood is to be congratulated on his first novel in spite of one or two trivial inaccuracies. 'Yoke' of an egg, for instance; and in 1918 there was no two minutes' silence on November the 11th.—(D.J.S.)

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL: A GUIDE FOR PRIESTS. Translated from the French by Rev. Joseph Leonard, C.M. (Burns, Oates & Washbourne; 6/-.)

Gleanings from the life, work, and teachings of St. Vincent de Paul: the result—a book of common-sense spirituality, and, as such, welcome. The chapters are unequal in merit, and sometimes rambling. We are told on p. 8 that our saint 'centuries before Freud practised psycho-analysis'; and a preoccupation for psycho-therapeutics permeates the whole book, perhaps needlessly. For the rest, an interesting complement to the saint's life, shewing plain 'M. Vincent,' reasonable and lovable, guiding his clergy in the motley and very different world of seventeenth century France. Similar treatment of the lives of other better-known saints could well replace many hagiographical failures.—(R.D.P.)

ST. JEROME: THE EARLY YEARS. By Paul Monceaux. (Sheed & Ward; 6/-.)

ST. ELIZABETH OF HUNGARY. By Franz Johannes von Weinrich. (Burns, Oates & Washbourne; 8/6.)

These two books differ from one another as greatly as do the two saints they speak of. M. Monceaux's book is a slight, grave record of St. Jerome's youth and life in the desert, eked out with descriptions of pictures concerning the Saint's life. Herr von Weinrich's book is a complete account of St. Elizabeth. 'No man raised his voice in turgid speech' is his second sentence and one could wish it were true of the author himself. He overlays the beautiful story with a fatiguing mass of imag-

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inary scenes and dialogues and mars his descriptions with far-fetched similes. There is a useful list of dates at the end of the book.—(P.D.F.)

SAINT ALONSO RODRIGUEZ. Translated from the Spanish of I. Casanuovas, S.J., by M. O'Leary. (Sands; pp. 188; 3/6.)

This book does not pretend to give a psychological analysis. A reader who wants to watch the play of temperament and various external circumstances on the development of the human character of the saint will not find it to his taste. If, however, what he wants is edifying reading and an idea of what the name St. Alonso Rodriguez stands for, this it does provide. There is really not very much to be said about the external life of the saint, so that almost inevitably the greater part of the book is devoted to an examination of his spiritual life. The titles of the chapters will show that this is done according to the traditional plan: prayers, mortification, temptation, zeal for souls, extraordinary graces. The chapters entitled 'Prayer' and 'The Mystery of the Perfect Virtues' are perhaps the most interesting, especially as the saint's own writings are frequently quoted.—(J.L.)

The Abbé Hoornaert is an acknowledged authority on his subject, and Messrs. Sheed and Ward deserve our thanks for re-issuing the translation of *Ste. Térèse Ecrivain* in a cheap edition. (SAINT TERESA IN HER WRITINGS; pp. 410; 6/-.) Scientific and critical, but vivid and interesting.—(T.G.)

We welcomed *ESPRIT* (76 bis, rue des Saints-Pères, Paris; yearly subscription, 75 fr.) on its first appearance six months ago. Since then its Catholicism has grown more explicit. We again recommend this thoughtful and vigorous nonconformist monthly; nonconformist, that is, to any institution or tradition less than the Church.—(N.W.T.G.)

THE AGE OF THE GODS. By Christopher Dawson (Sheed & Ward; 8/6.)

This work, described as 'A study in the origins of culture in prehistoric Europe and the Ancient East,' was first published in 1928 by Murray, and is now re-issued by Sheed and Ward at a much lower price. The result is that we have now a remarkably cheap, yet well-produced, edition of what is acknowledged by experts to be the best short account of our knowledge of prehistoric man.—(L.W.)

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A NATIONAL PLAN. By Norman Tiptaft. (Birmingham; Tiptaft; 6d.)

The author of this pamphlet in many points of his diagnosis of social evils seems to have reached the same conclusions as the writers of the Social Credit Group. If he is unaware of the remedy they propose he ought to make himself acquainted with it and to place himself in that camp. This is not the time for anyone who sees the evil so clearly to take up a solitary position. The remedy he sketches himself is confused, and he has a futile if lifelong work in front of him if he is to eradicate the desire of the individual for a legitimate profit from his work.—(T.C.-E.)

GUY DE FONTGALLAND par Élie Maire. Illustrations de R.-E. Savitry-Bhattacharjee. (Desclée de Brouwer; 12 fr.)

Intended for children, this would have been more suitable if the natural side of Guy's life had not been neglected, and the illustrations had been omitted.—(C.P.)

The life of Blessed John Houghton, the prior of the Charterhouse in London, and proto-martyr of the Reformation, has been published (by Burns, Oates and Washbourne at 5/-) under the title *While the World Revolves*, which is part of the famous motto of the Carthusian Order. It is the work of Donald Benedict Christie, a simple and earnest presentation of a simple and earnest life. Blessed John was a perfect Carthusian, austere and devout, whose contemplative prayer remote from the world fitted him to meet the world unafraid.—(B.J.)

MAUNDY THURSDAY. By François Mauriac. Translated by Harold F. Kynaston-Snell. (Burns, Oates & Washbourne; pp. 98; 3/6 net.)

One cannot congratulate the translator. The book itself, in some ways, will not perhaps appeal very readily to the English mind; the translation does not deserve to. Frequent unhappy phrases; sentences sometimes almost unintelligible. There are some misprints; the book's outward promise is not improved by the appearance on the wrapper of an advertisement for the publishers' repository articles.—(L.S.G.V.)

ST. IGNATIUS. By Christopher Hollis. (Sheed and Ward; The Hart Library; 5/-.)

ST. THOMAS AQUINAS. By Jacques Maritain. (Sheed and Ward; The Hart Library; 5/-.)

Mr. Hollis's *St. Ignatius* has already been well-received, at least by a non-Catholic public, in spite of a rather irritating presentment. *St. Thomas Aquinas*, written with all M. Mari-

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tain's lucidity and earnestness, deserves to be well known in England amongst the Catholic laity. It is unfortunate that the translation has not been revised. A particularly inapposite passage commented on by a former reviewer in BLACKFRIARS still persists.—(R.E.M.)

LE ROSAIRE ET SES ANTÉCÉDENTS HISTORIQUES. By Maxime Gorce. (Éditions : A. Picard, Paris.)

This book, which puts forward new documentary evidence, will be welcomed by students of the history of the Rosary. Perhaps it will satisfy those who deny the Dominican origin of the Rosary. It is well printed, with a good index.—(D.J.S.)

THE MAN WHO WENT ON BUSINESS. By Norman Tiptaft. (Tiptaft ; 5/-.)

The business man must think sometimes ; and Mr. Tiptaft has published his random thoughts. Mr. Tiptaft admired the Taj Mahal by moonlight, and dislikes politicians. This book will probably be of absorbing interest to business men. 'The rest,' as he says himself in his witty dedication, 'are hopeless.'—(S.U.)

SACERDOCE ; PERFECTION ET VŒUX. By the Abbé Georges Lemaitre. (Desclée de Brouwer ; 5 fr.)

Some may feel that the priest wastes his great gift in taking vows, for the priesthood is the highest possible vocation. This short treatise, clear and concise, treats of a secular priest who becomes a religious. The author is *Directeur* of the Seminary at Merville.—(C.P.)

THE PASSION AND DEATH OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, by Archbishop Goodier, S.J. (Burns, Oates & Washbourne ; 10/6) describes in detail the most tremendous act in human history. Dignified and devout, an excellent book for Holy Week. Fr. Martindale's *ESSAY ON THE PASSION* (Burns, Oates & Washbourne, 6d.) was well worth re-publication. *LIFE AND RELIGION*, by Fr. James, O.M.Cap. (Sands ; 5/-) consists of thirteen conferences relating modern life to the philosophy of St. Augustine and St. Thomas : the world is too good for anything less. Priests will be grateful to Fr. Weaver, S.J., for his *HINTS FOR THE INSTRUCTION OF CONVERTS* (Burns, Oates & Washbourne ; 2/6).—(T.O.P.)