

redemption are presented, the reader is introduced to all the themes of the history of salvation which bind the diverse literature of the Bible into an organic whole. With an admirable brevity he explains the difficult biblical symbolism that many now find so strange. The reader becomes familiar with the most important texts and their traditional interpretation and gains a perspective that will at once facilitate a fruitful study of sacred scripture, and render the liturgy more comprehensible. There can be no doubt that many will find this book a great help.

Unfortunately the English translation has diminished its worth. The author took the trouble to furnish his text with footnotes to facilitate further study. Many of the works referred to are in translation if, indeed, they were not originally written in English, but the translator is content to refer his readers to the French editions. On p. 116 a passage from Newman's Sermon 'Divine Calls' (*Parochial and Plain Sermons* (1871) vol. 8, p. 24) is actually re-translated from the French translation with the note: 'cf. Newman in *Le Chrétien*'. The sense has been seriously distorted in the process. With such blemishes as these, it is hardly right that this translation should cost three shillings more than the French original.

PAULINUS MILNER O.P.

SPIRITUALITÉ DU BAPTÊME. By Thomas Camelot O.P.; Les Editions du Cerf; 10.80 N.F.

The well known French Dominican, Père Camelot, patristic scholar and theologian, has given us a book in which the Church's teaching on the sacrament of baptism throughout the tradition is presented in a very readable form. There is hardly an aspect of the subject on which he does not offer pertinent remarks: baptism as profession of faith, as illumination, and the difficult subject of the necessity of faith for its fruitful reception; baptism as death to sin and as resurrection to new life, the anointing and seal of the Spirit, the relation of baptism to confirmation and its connection with the baptism of Christ. The author draws on his wide knowledge of the Greek and Latin Fathers and his book presents a very fine collection of patristic texts. But though it is a product of deep thought and scholarship it is not a theological essay for the digestion of theologians nor a text book for seminarians: it is addressed to the growing body of lay folk who wish to deepen their understanding of the faith. In the spirit of the catechetical sermons of the Fathers, it is not destined only to instruct, but is offered as a practical guide and inspiration for the Christian life. The author is anxious to show how the act of our baptism symbolizes and sets the pattern for that journey through the waters of life in the footsteps of Christ to which it commits us. All these fine qualities combine to make this book outstanding among the many works of popular theology that keep coming from the press. It is to be hoped that it will soon appear in a worthy English translation.

PAULINUS MILNER O.P.