

data, it is less convincingly: e.g., 'there is a striking absence of "built" houses at Pera, most of the homes being hollowed out of the rock' (p. 67) will sound strange to those who have studied the rock-cut monuments of the Nabatean capital.

This is perhaps the main criticism we would offer of Professor Winnett's reasoned investigations and analyses, all of which deserve careful thought and study, and are valuable in their limits.

ROLAND POTTER, O.P.

THE DESCENT OF THE DOVE. By Charles Williams. (Faber; 15s.)

It is perhaps significant that Charles Williams had first intended to entitle this book *A History of Christendom*. It remains a history of what he thought, and many will think with him, the most important thing in the Church, namely the unending struggle to reconcile the natural with the supernatural, the human and the divine. Of course in a brief survey over two thousand years many episodes and periods will be too hastily dismissed and each reader will find his own cause for complaint. But what remains throughout is the unalterable fact that the Church is the Body of Christ and the central strand in the texture of her history is the movement of the Holy Ghost in her life. So we can see, and hear, the Spirit of God which once brooded over the chaos of creation now uttering through the cries of a Christian slave-girl martyr, through the philosophy of Augustine of Hippo, through the authoritative voice of the Church's Councils, through the mystics and allegorical poets, and even in our own day through the Newman and Claudels. The whole book is in fact a commentary on *Verbum Caro Factum Est* and this second edition is more than ever welcome when the clamour of statesmen, philosophers and even poets may easily deafen us to the more subtle cadences of the Eternal Word.

GERARD MEATH, O.P.

SILVER SHEAVES. Published by the Missionary Sisters of Our Lady of the Rosary, Killeshandra, Ireland; 7s.6d.

This is a record of twenty-five years of missionary work in Central Africa. Founded by the late Dr Shanahan, Vicar Apostolic of Southern Nigeria, directed by the late Dr Leen, C.S.Sp., and nursed by the Dominican Sisters of Cabra, this new Missionary Congregation has developed and spread rapidly. Devoted to educational, social and medical work of all kinds, it has shown the adaptability necessary for work in the African Mission fields. One of its latest ventures is to take over a large native hospital in Johannesburg. This is one more example of the Church's unending fecundity in supplying the needs of the Missions and of the apostolic zeal of the Irish. May this record help to bring the sisters the spiritual and temporal help they need in their great work!

D.M.