

FOUNTAINS OF JOY. By the Rev. Frederick A. Houck.
(Herder; 6/-.)

This book appears to have been written for the benefit of recent converts. It is in the tradition of Fr. Faber, from whose works there are many and lengthy quotations. The book is, in fact, a mosaic of quotations from very many authors. No doubt this sort of thing is appreciated by those who come from many of the drab, 'kill-joy' sects outside the Church. And, seeing the provenance of the book, one feels that such works as this give point to a recent remark made by Mr. Chesterton: 'In the United States, they are all Puritans—especially the anti-Puritans.'

The 'popular' explanation of the Eucharistic Presence is neither happy nor sound. 'Why should God, the Creator of quantity and space, not be able to deprive a substance of one (? quantity) or even of both of these accidents?' (p. 209). The fact that quantity is not removed is all-important in explaining the Eucharistic Presence.

Also, will the average reader understand the philosophic use of 'quantity,' here introduced without explanation?

N.H.

THE DOCTORS OF THE CHURCH. By the Rev. Fr. Paul, O.S.F.C.
With a Preface by the Archbishop of Birmingham. (Burns,
Oates & Washbourne; 5/-.)

This is a collection of short autobiographies of the Doctors of the Church, and of some of the Fathers of the Church who have not been declared Doctors.

'Pope Benedict XIV declares that there are three things which constitute a Doctor of the Church—learning, sanctity, and the bestowal of the title by the authority of the Church.'

These short accounts are not intended for more than the general reader, but they give a good notion of the share each of these great men have taken in building up the Church as we know it to-day. This is very useful, lest the eye tend to stop short at externals, and lest it be forgotten how great is the foundation of learning and holiness upon which the Church stands.

The writer has avoided the atmosphere of sentimentalism and 'tall stories' which so often accompanies such short accounts as these. Many readers would find it convenient to have at hand a short account of the heresies against which the Doctors strove.

N.H.