

## NOTICES

ELEMENTA PHILOSOPHIAE. Tome 3 (in 2 parts). By M. le Chan. Maquart. (Blot; n.p.)

It is fashionable to decry the writing of philosophical manuals, and to suggest that writers should occupy their time more fruitfully in the study and development of some particular doctrine. But no one engaged in the actual work of teaching will wish to deny the utility of a good manual, provided it is not regarded as an inspired text to be expounded with reverence. The manual which Dr. Maquart completes in these two volumes reaches a higher level than that usually attained in similar works. The two volumes published earlier treated of logic and natural philosophy. The first of the present volumes deals with criteriology (pp. 346). and the second with ontology and theodicy (pp. 485). A treatise on ethics, apparently, is not included in the plan of the work. The author makes use of the classical commentaries on St. Thomas, and he shows himself very well versed in recent controversies and writings, and uses them to advantage. His teaching throughout is solidly Thomist, expressed with clearness and profundity. In Criteriology he follows the doctrine expounded in M. Maritain's *Les degrés du savoir*, and within the limits possible in a manual he gives in copious footnotes, extracts and quotations to justify and make clear his schematic expositions of other theories.

B.O'D.

SOLITUDE AND SOCIETY. By Nicolas Berdyaev. (Bles; 8s. 6d.)

It is a commonplace of experience that society need not mean the end of solitude, and M. Berdyaev indeed maintains that it cannot. Society belongs to what he calls the objective and therefore degraded world, shared by general categories, natural science, and objective being and metaphysics. In society we can only have communication between individuals; the only cure for solitude is communion between persons. Such in brief is the message of the book. Solitude is here too much considered as an evil needing cure; its value as a means, which may be deliberately chosen, of realising personal communion with God, we have not found presented. But the two chief faults in this study in existential philosophy are first and foremost a false view of objectivity as unapproachable and impenetrable otherness, which is then used to excuse the discarding of everything connected with the individuality of man (since individuality is a category of the same class as generality, which is objective and degraded); and secondly a very deficient notion

of the nature of personality. A personalist philosophy which teaches that personality is nothing substantial and that the Ego has to acquire it, thereby renders itself helpless in the face of aggressive society. But this point might be overlooked through the presence of a certain vagueness concerning the Ego's distinction from or identity with the personality (e.g., cf. pp. 111 and 159). Society is thus knocked down with one hand, as objective, and set up again with the other, by the denial of the substantiality of personality. The most valuable notion in the book is that of the personality as a centre of action (and, we might usefully add, braving the dangers of 'objectivity', passion), rather than a mere limiting principle to the rights of society, in which light so many are content to treat of it.

I.T.

## BOOKS RECEIVED

- BURNS, OATES AND WASHBOURNE: *Conferences of St. Vincent de Paul to the Sisters of Charity*. Vol. II. Tr. Joseph Leonard, C.M. (10s. 6d.). *The Catholic Directory* (3s. 6d.). *The Catholic Who's Who, 1939* (6s.).
- CATHOLIC SOCIAL GUILD: *Foundations of International Order* (Papers presented at the Catholic International Peace Conference at the Hague, August, 1938) (1s.).
- CHURCH LITERATURE ASSOCIATION: *The Faith that Abides*, F. P. Harton, B.D. (1s.). *Daily Meditations on the Lenten Epistles*, H. G. Pigott (1s.).
- EDITIONS SALVATOR: *L'Education du Jeune Homme*, S. Exc. Mgr. Tihamer Toth. Traduit du Hongrois, K. De Marissay (18 frs.). *La Communion des Saints; La Remission de Péchés; La Vie Eternelle (Sermons)*, S. Exc. Mgr. Tihamer Toth, Tr. L'Abbé Marcel Grandcludon (25 frs.). *La Vie en Fleur*, 2<sup>eme</sup> partie, Marguerite Csába, adaption française Marie Francoeur (8 frs.). *La Conquête des Cimes*, Dunin-Borkowski, S.J., adaption française, L'Abbé René Guillaume, Tome I (18 frs.).
- EDITIONS SPES: *Le Dieu des Chrétiens*, Abbé Félix Klein (18 frs.). *La Doctrine Spirituelle des Hommes d'Action*, François Charnot, S.J. (20 frs.).
- HERDER (Rome): *Studi Domenicani*, P. Angelo Walz, O.P. (10 lire).
- LONGMANS: *Reform and Revolution*, James E. O'Mahoney, O.M.Cap., M.A., D.Litt.; *Modern Democracy*, James Hogan, D.Litt.; *Economics and the Worker*, Rev. W. Paschal Larkin, O.M.Cap., M.A., Ph.D., B.Econ.Sc. [All of the University (Cork) and Labour Series] (1s. each).
- OXFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS: *English Lyrics of the 13th Century*, ed. Carlton Brown (10s.).
- ROSARY (Irish): *Communism Questioned and Answered*, R. M. Dowdall, O.P. (1s. 6d.).
- SANDS: *The Enigma of James II*, Malcom V. Hay (8s. 6d.). *Canterbury Bells* (a Novel), Harold Webb (6s.).
- SHEED AND WARD: *Life and People in National Spain*, Florence Farmborough (2s. 6d.).