

NOTICES

Everyman's Library is this year celebrating its twenty-fifth birthday by the issue of its thousandth title. It is, perhaps, happily significant of the high seriousness and nobility of purpose behind this series that the choice for this should be Aristotle's *METAPHYSICS* (Dent, 7s.), a book which, the publishers remark, 'is recognized throughout the world as of basic importance in the history of civilization, especially of Christian culture'. Mr John Warrington, who was commissioned to provide a new translation, has taken the opportunity of making this austere classic Everyman's own by a re-arrangement of the text according to principles for which he ably argues in the Introduction to the volume.

Appearing simultaneously are two other Everyman titles, one completely new, the other a revision. It is good to see one of the great European novels of the last century, Manzoni's *THE BETROTHED* (Dent, 7s.), taking the penultimate place in the first thousand of this collection, in the excellent recent translation of Mr Archibald Colquhoun which may be justly said to have brought this book effectively to the notice of the English-reading public for the first time. And in the great work of revision of previous issues in which the Everyman editors have taken the opportunity offered by the recent change to a more elegant format to engage, no more striking and fitting example could have been chosen at the moment than *EVERYMAN AND MEDIEVAL MIRACLE PLAYS* (Dent, 6s.). Apart from the moral play *Everyman* itself, which retains its position through its own intrinsic worth quite apart from sentimental reasons, this book contains a completely new selection from the English medieval drama made by Mr A. C. Cawley. It is from this book, already the source of the Library's motto, that we would draw our birthday greetings:

'Everyman, God give you time and space!'

MEDITATIONS FOR LAYFOLK, by Bede Jarret, O.P. (Catholic Truth Society, 12s. 6d.), is a welcome reprint of a book still very much in demand which has become in its way a classic. When it was originally published over forty years ago it was very much an innovation, and the author offered it to the public with 'extreme diffidence'. But the book met with an immediate and a lasting popularity. Even today when the number of books designed to foster the spiritual life of layfolk has swollen into a veritable torrent, Father Bede's meditations, representing a spirituality at once thoroughly English and thoroughly Dominican,

set a standard of freshness, simplicity, and directness of appeal to which very few of his successors have attained.

Messrs Geoffrey Webb and Adrian Walker continue their excellent work in the *Fleur de Lys* series of making early Cistercian classics available in English. They are responsible for no less than three recently-published volumes: St Aelred's ON JESUS AT TWELVE YEARS OLD, THE SCHOOL OF SELF-KNOWLEDGE, an anthology from various sources, and William of St Thierry's ON THE NATURE AND DIGNITY OF LOVE (Mowbrays, 3s. 6d., 3s., 3s. 6d., respectively). In the same series there has also recently appeared two short treatises of Hugh of St Victor under the title, THE DIVINE LOVE (Mowbrays, 2s. 6d.).

ARCHAEOLOGY FROM THE EARTH, by Sir Mortimer Wheeler, and CICERO AND THE ROMAN REPUBLIC, by F. R. Cowell (Penguin Books, 3s. 6d. and 5s., respectively), are reprints of two recently-published books which should do much to stimulate the revived interest in antiquity of our days. Sir Mortimer Wheeler's breviary for the field-worker was reviewed, on its first publication, in *Blackfriars* for January 1955. Mr Cowell, in tracing the background for his subject, gives us a conspectus of the history of the Roman Republic and its institutions. His book should do much to render less unsympathetic a figure whose fame has recently undergone a strange eclipse.

THE SACRAMENTS IN CHRISTIAN LIFE, by M. M. Philipon, O.P., now appears in an English translation by John Otto (Sands, 16s.). Fr Philipon's book is a theologically robust study, not simply of the sacraments as means of individual sanctification but of their social function within the Mystical Body of Christ.

THE DIVINE PITY, by Gerald Vann, O.P., has been published in the Fontana Books series (Collins, 2s.), as has LETTERS TO YOUNG CHURCHES, by J. B. Phillips (2s. 6d.). It is encouraging to find religious books of this quality made readily available to thousands of new readers, and Fr Vann's 'study in the social implications of the Beatitudes' will be widely welcomed.