

THY KINGDOM COME. By Bernard Kelly, C.S.Sp. (Burns Oates; 9s.)

This book presents a well-knit synthesis of the spiritual life within the framework of single idea. Though at first sight this might seem to limit the scope and usefulness of the book, it soon becomes clear that Fr. Kelly has succeeded in fusing together into a harmonious whole every principle and practice essential to a full and vigorous spirituality. In a very leisurely and quiet style, lit up here and there by a touch of humour, or an apt illustration, he builds up the synthesis from the fundamental notion of man's true dignity, showing in the process the inevitable clash of interests of body and soul, the need for unswerving loyalty to the kingdom of the spirit and the law of submission that underlies all prayer. Fr. Kelly has an acute perception of the weaknesses of human nature and reveals them so unsparingly that the reader is left with few illusions by the time he reaches the end of the book. There is something valuable here for every kind of reader, but particularly for those who think that all spiritual books are alike and that new works are just a rehash of old ones. Here we have something solid, practical and stimulating, founded on experience and sobered by cool judgment.

H. T.

FROM CREATION TO CHRISTMAS. By Hubert Van Zeller, O.S.B. (Burns Oates; 7s. 6d.)

This book is dedicated to Julia (if she is not too old for it), and Tiger (if he is not too young): from which we may safely conclude that Julia is old enough to be Tiger's grandmother.

"From Creation to Christmas" tells the most fascinating and most real story in the world in a clear forceful manner, and in a way which will appeal not only to boys and girls, but to many who wish the book had been written years ago. The historical background of the Old Testament is filled in sufficiently to make a coherent narrative of the whole, and we are also reminded continually that the story has some practical use for us today. "What things soever were written," says St. Paul, "were written for our learning," and Fr. Van Zeller is at pains to show "how the word of God is echoed down the centuries . . . the Voice of Old and New Testaments is One Voice—expressed in the single utterance of God's Love." The book with its 8 full-page illustrations is a valuable introduction and guide for those who would understand From Christmas to Calvary—and after.

A. V. W.

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Blackfriars, May, 1944 (Vol. I. No. 3). Price 6d. if purchased separately.  
The Ditchling Press, Hassocks, Sussex.