

Life of the Spirit

A BLACKFRIARS REVIEW



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Secrets of the Interior Life

By Most Rev. L. M. MARTINEZ, D.D. Translated by Rev. H. J. Beutler, C.M. 22/6

'Those who are seriously attempting to live the interior life will welcome this beautiful translation of the spiritual treatise of Archbishop Martinez. In it they will find not only instruction but encouragement in their efforts. We are not confused by a multiplicity of spiritual principles. Humility must exist at the beginning and it must accompany every step. The disorderly affections must, of course, be eliminated—they are the parasites that ravage and destroy the spiritual life. It is on account of these same disorderly affections that so many people get discouraged and give up the struggle. It is then that they need confidence and unlimited trust in God.

Sin, even serious sin, should not unduly discourage us, because of the great mercy of God who loves us even in spite of our faults and failings. The great objective is union with God. The author lays stress on vivifying faith as a sure means of finding God and communicating with Him.

Even desolation and spiritual dryness can be turned to good account and woven into the pattern of sanctity. We can use these apparent failures on our part as a means of drawing nearer to God, and the author quotes St Teresa as saying that if we persevere in spite of every obstacle God will, sooner or later, bring us to that state of contemplation which he describes as the ante-chamber of heaven, a foretaste of the joys of paradise.'—*The Irish Ecclesiastical Record*.

Christ in the Home

By Rev. R. PLUS, S.J. Translated from the French. 32/-

'This book is written in the straightforward style and with the candid recognition of reality which we have learned to associate with the writings of Fr Plus. It is not a theoretical or academic study of the sacrament of matrimony, but a frank discussion of the difficulties that beset the married couple, more especially when the glamour of the honeymoon has vanished and they face the realities of a life-long companionship with its inevitable frictions arising from uncongenialities of temperament and disposition that were hitherto unnoticed. The author rightly emphasises the necessity of a spirit of sacrifice on the part of both, if love is to endure and the marriage is to be a success. To live constantly in forgetfulness of self in order to think only of the happiness and well-being of the other requires a great deal more than mere human attraction.

The second part of this work is devoted to a study of the proper training and education of the children; and this is even more helpful and informative than the first part. The faults of which parents are frequently guilty in regard to the home-training of their children are set forth with admirable psychological insight, and much useful instruction of a positive kind is given on the education of the child to the supernatural, and also on the training to purity, formation of character and the training to social responsibility. This is a book, in fine, which, if its teaching were taken to heart, would raise marriage to a high plane of success both naturally and supernaturally.'—*The Irish Ecclesiastical Record*.

B. HERDER, 33 Queen Square, LONDON, W. C. 1
