

## REVIEWS

OUR ETERNAL VOCATION. By a Carmelite Nun. (Sands; 7s. 6d.)

Many readers who have no time to study the works of De Caussade or of St John of the Cross will welcome this practical little book, and even those who are familiar with the classics of the spiritual life will value this application of eternal truths to everyday problems.

The author's former book, *God and Rosanne*, was intended chiefly for postulants and novices, but this book is for everyone. It is a treatise on 'how to live', based on the sure way of St Thérèse of Lisieux: how to live in time, in relation to eternity. As the author tells us: 'In setting out on any journey, the great thing is to know beforehand precisely where one is going' (p. 45), and, having considered the goal, she then discusses the difficulties and demands of the undertaking. 'Holiness' is 'a debt which we owe not only to God, but also to the whole world' (p. 38); the success of the 'lantern-bearers' (p. 12 & passim) depends more on what they *are* than on what they *do*; full use must be made of the means of grace for there will be danger of self-deception and need for sincerity, for holding fast to the true standard of values, and, above all, there will be the need to know how to turn the daily, hourly trials into many stepping-stones on the way.

The chapters on religious life in the Cloister show wide and varied experience; they are characterised by a quiet humour and a generous measure of Teresian commonsense. In writing of the contemplative life in particular, the author stresses its apostolic and intercessory value; she also includes three pages on the spirit of Carmel which will be treasured by all who love the Order. Though parts of the earlier sections of the book sometimes fail to hold the attention of the reader, the concluding chapters provide ample compensation. The discussion on the Groundwork of Prayer is especially valuable, and the final chapters on St Thérèse and her mission deserve the highest praise.

But if sanctity is our proper vocation and aim, we must ask the meaning of the term. The answer is to be found in the story on page 194. This answer alone is well worth the book! M. M. GRACE

A PROCESSION OF SAINTS. By James Brodrick, S.J. (Burns Oates; 10s. 6d.)

Whoever read Father Brodrick's sketches of saints when they appeared during 1946 in the *Clergy Review* will need no urging to buy and re-read them in their collected form. The procession displays a saint for every month of the year, all of them English by birth or adoption: and for good measure is added an essay on the Venerable Marie-of-the-Incarnation, French Ursuline. But though she became 'a sort of spiritual conquest of the British Empire'