

**THE FINAL VICTORY.** By Dom Aelred Graham, O.S.B. (Burns Oates; 2s. 6d. and 3s. 6d.).

The cover of this short book bears the sub-title, 'the present world conflict considered from the standpoint of Christian theology.' It might also be described as a consideration of the disease from which humanity is suffering, of which war is a symptom. The situation is in some respects favourable to this standpoint. It is no longer necessary to prove that humanity is sick: the symptoms are evident and extremely distressing. Nor is there any general desire for mere relief of symptoms. Greatly as men desire a just peace, they want a cure not a palliative, and it is widely felt that something more radical than the mere cessation of hostilities is needed if health is to return. Even the Christian diagnosis of the disease as self-centredness meets with a measure of agreement. It is almost a commonplace that self-centredness in the individual must go, and there is a growing realisation that it is also a disease in nation or class. If the individual can be got to live for others, and the group be got to live for the whole, all will be well. But the Christian diagnosis goes deeper. The Christian has to take that immense step farther, beyond the 'everybody 100 per cent. for everybody else,' and recognise a self-centredness of humanity, which must be replaced by God-centredness if health is to be regained. This is the theme of Dom Graham's book, and its importance cannot be exaggerated. But he does more than diagnose: he gives (to keep to the metaphor) a summary of the medical history, with notes on some other treatment which has only aggravated the patient's condition. A E.H.S.

**THE POPE'S NEW ORDER.** By Philip Hughes. (Burns, Oates; 9s.).

Reviewers frequently have to complain about the index of a book, either that it is inadequate or even non-existent. But the first point to make about Fr. Hughes' excellent survey and collection of papal documents is the lavish, abundant and detailed index. Both for the casual reader and for the student this comprehensive index should be of inestimable value.

The book itself is a model of summary and analysis, and deals with all important encyclicals, letters and addresses from Leo XIII to Pius XII. In some cases the actual words are given, in others a précis provides a link from section to section. One cannot but be impressed by the consistency of papal teaching: how, as the world slid nearer and nearer to cataclysm, the Popes protested, urged and warned. As Fr. Hughes so rightly remarks, 'it is a doctrine only to be disregarded at the peril of Europe's future—so near are we now to chaos.' Particularly interesting perhaps is the development of thought shown by a comparison of *Rerum novarum*, *Quadragesimo anno*, and *La solennità della Pentecoste* (a broadcast address on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of *Rerum novarum*).