

its everyday components which etch in the background of the picture in such a manner that one thought flows naturally from another. The result is a richness, a fulness in development which frequently set going a new train of thought.

It must not be thought that the subjects chosen are merely strictly utilitarian. In addition to such titles as *Little Things*, *Cheerfulness*, there are *The Holy Trinity*, *The Mystical Body of Christ* which are clearly expounded, and of which the devotional aspect is brought out. These meditations—there are seventy-six—can, and should, be read more than once, with fresh profit each time. They make a worthy companion volume to Bede Jarrett's *Meditations for Layfolk*. The priest who has the cure of souls and who has not much time for reading will find ample material for sermons in these pages.

The book is clearly printed and well got up and is excellent value for the price. The production is a credit to the publishers.

Augustine Hogg, O.P.

MERRY IN GOD (FR WILLIAM DOYLE, S.J.). New Edition. (Longmans; 8s. 6d.)

This book begins: "'Fetch this!" shouted a sturdy youngster of twelve, sprawling in an easy-chair on the lawn with his legs dangling over the arm-rests. Whiz! A ball flew across the tennis-court, hotly pursued by a small boy, who pounced on it almost before it had touched the ground, and tossed it back to its owner.' The story illustrates the lack of imagination of the author of this anonymous study. Youngsters sprawling in this attitude cannot throw balls with a 'whiz': in any case, smaller boys could not pounce on it 'almost before it had touched the ground': still less could it be tossed back 'again and again' (as the account continues) with sufficient accuracy to be caught in such a position 'again and again'.

This life is written 'mainly for young people': for such a purpose it is a failure. On this same page occur the words 'presage' and 'transfused'. The book extends to 330 pages. Included are many of Fr Doyle's written resolutions and reflections on the spiritual life, some of which are unsuitable for young people.

Professor O'Rahilly's well-known biography is made rather bulky by being clothed in a theological and ascetical treatise. The foreword to this book acknowledges the author's debt to the previous *Life*. This abridgment will be read with pleasure by many (a life of Willy Doyle could hardly be dull) but not by the young people for whom it was mainly intended.

C. P. SCARBOROUGH

MAN'S TRIUMPH: WITH GOD IN CHRIST. By The Rev. Frederick A. Houck. (Herder; n.p.)

It is to be feared that the many readers who have made it necessary for this book to appear in a fourth edition will be in the position

of those members of a congregation who speak in glowing terms of a sermon they have not understood. From *De Deo Uno* to *De Novissimis* in 244 pages with lengthy quotations from St Thomas and equally lengthy passages of unadorned and childlike simplicity, is a singularly ineffective way of acquainting man with his true destiny and the means of attaining it. We need simplicity of exposition and St Thomas can help us in that direction, but only if his teaching is analysed and his terms more carefully explained.

E. Q.

PLATFORM REPLIES. Volume One. By the Very Revd. J. P. Arendzen, D.D., Ph.D., M.A. (Mercier Press; 5s. 0d.)

Dr Arendzen has gathered together the answers he has provided to questions put during several years to members of the Catholic Missionary Society. They cover a vast field, from the philosophy of Spinoza to the Serpent in Paradise, from Purgatory to Psycho-analysis. It is not difficult to give debating answers to the muddled queries of the man-in-the-street. What is harder—and more valuable—is to go behind the question, often pitifully inadequate to express a real difficulty, and to understand its presuppositions. It is here that Dr Arendzen is most helpful, and anyone who is engaged in Evidence Guild speaking, or indeed who is merely anxious to clear his own mind of muddle, will find in *Platform Replies* a charitable and discerning guide to many modern misconceptions about the Catholic Faith and will find too a brief but effective means for their resolution.

I. E.

