

This in itself seems something of an overstatement, but the translator makes the latter part even stronger by translating '... at the very moment when it is becoming outmoded, and stale, and has ceased to justify its existence'. 'Outmoded' is hardly the word, nor is 'stale', and certainly not 'ceased to justify its existence'. On page 100 surely we should read 'stature' for 'statue', and Mass should always be spelt with a capital (p. 224)! But these are very small points in an excellent book. May we hope that the *Vie Spirituelle* will continue to convene the meetings which have so far resulted in these books, and that Blackfriars Publications will continue to translate them.

DOMINIC J. SIRE, O.P.

RELIGIOUS ACCORDING TO THE SACRED HEART. By Saint Margaret Mary. Translated by a Daughter of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart. (Mercier Press; 7s. 6d.)

The subtitle of this book is 'The Individual and Collective Instructions of Saint Margaret Mary to her Novices'. It is a translation from the French of part of Volume II of *The Life and Works of Saint Margaret Mary* by Monsignor Gauthey. It consists of seventy-six instructions to novices who have dedicated their lives to the Sacred Heart. All these instructions are extremely practical, the first fifty being addressed to individual novices or sisters. They are written in a style which, though it lacks smoothness, never lacks clarity and often has extraordinary power. This is due not so much to originality of thought and expression, but rather to its unmistakably authoritative tone. On occasions one suspects the saint is merely repeating the very words our Lord has used to herself.

Saint Margaret Mary was Mistress of Novices for only two years, and she had only seven novices. This little book enables anyone with sufficient courage and generosity to increase their number. Here, surely, is an authoritative guide. If anyone doubts the strength of his love for Christ; if he thinks he is spiritually a heart case; here are full instructions as to treatment. Saint Margaret Mary is the perfect heart specialist, and her instructions the perfect cardiograph of a healthy heart. It must not be thought that this book is limited to novices in its appeal. There is a sense in which we are all called to be religious according to the Sacred Heart. That is not something achieved in a noviciate; it takes a lifetime. This little book, of just over a hundred pages, is not one which should be read quickly once. It is a book to be read slowly and prayerfully, a few moments at a time, and often.

The publishers are to be complimented on keeping an authoritative work within the reach of many, even if this means the use of paper backs.

SIDNEY F. BREEN