

charity. By 'ethics', however, he seems to mean the discipline of working out in detail what is good for man. He believes that in this field the biologist has the important role of demonstrating our historical and actual unity with nature and of prophesying and warning us about our biological future. Ethics in this sense is a guide to behaviour, a sort of scientific development of wisdom in the sense of prudence. The bulk of this book provides a large number of fascinating results and ideas taken from a wide range of sciences. Some of the most interesting and relevant to the task of showing human solidarity with nature are taken from Dr Thorpe's own subject of animal behaviour. What gives these ideas their unity is not so much any sustained argument, of which there is very little, but the fact that the author is a biologist and looks out from this discipline as his centre. There is much to be said for the

belief that any new fundamental approach to nature will most profitably be biological rather than physical. The line of least resistance to European science has so far proved to be that of physics and chemistry but who can say that it has given us the best possible vision of nature? Not the least important of Dr Thorpe's ideas is that science, art and theology have much in common as ways of knowing reality. The task (of the individual primarily) is to avoid exclusiveness in any one of these ways. The truth of this is becoming clear nowadays, at least with respect to science and art, and one of the causes of this is the increasing awareness on the part of scientists of the nature of their main preoccupation in life and of its epistemological status. Such books as this can do nothing but help the process of integration.

ALBERT RUSTON, O.P.

IS CELIBACY OUTDATED? by Ida Gorres. *Mercier Press*, 5s.

There is real gold in this book. The author first weighs various counterfeit motives for celibacy and shows them to be dross. Then she lays open for us the treasury of the virginal priesthood of Christ and shows therein the limitless wealth that is ours for the taking. Her priest is not the shepherd who rules his flock with iron crook, nor is he only the one who nurses his lambs and feeds his sheep, but also the strong one who goes out to fight the wolves for them. Her angelic man is not just a half-man. He is the chivalrous son of the Resurrection, who not only fights the dragon but in taming it for service doubles his own strength. While she reminds the priest of his manliness, she points out to the female virgin too that there is only *one* Bride of Christ, the betrothed, the promised one, the whole of Creation awaiting in confidence the coming of her Bridegroom – and that every virginal person *represents* her. The fluttering sighs of ethereal 'spouses' floating down the cloisters of time in the cloud of bridal veiling and sentimentality bequeathed to them by inadequate theology, are replaced by the splendid consecration of men and women who merge into the single figure of the Bride they

represent and in Whom they are gloriously fulfilled – this Bride of confident, eager expectancy, this Advent Bride awaiting the hour of Her glory.

It is notable both in this first section of the book and in the second, in which the author deals so extraordinarily well with the relationships between priests and women, that she can be as outspoken and uninhibited as the Scriptures in her choice of language and yet give us something so sacred that it can be read only with reverence and gratitude. One cannot but regret that the title was not more conventional, so that it might have been read by many more people who otherwise would not touch it with a barge-pole. We hear that some Bishops are personally supplying their clergy with copies of the enactments of the Council, so that they will read them. Would that some super-episcopal-mensal-fund might enable them to supply individual copies of this little book too, to priests and seminarians. It would encourage and strengthen vocations, clarify much fuzzy thinking and send many sons of the Resurrection on their way rejoicing.

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