

author may have been he had certainly tasted of the authentic spring of the Christian's knowledge and love of God. It reveals the objective spirituality of the one who seeks God through Christ and is yet not unaware of the great happiness and the wholeness which comes from this desire for a union with God. In other words, it is untouched with post-reformation trends in spirituality which have led us to our modern self-conscious search for the 'disinterested' love of God. The translator has done his work well and the result is neither too archaic nor slickly modern.

C.P.

ANNE-ELISABETH SETON. *Une fille américaine de Monsieur Vincent.*

By Jeanne Danemarie. (Editions Spes; Paris.)

This book is intended to popularise the life and work of one of the greatest personalities of the last century, too little known in Europe. It traces the life of Elisabeth from childhood, through trials of married life and widowhood to her conversion, vocation and the many persecutions which followed, in a series of vivid pictures written most attractively. As the Superior General of the Sisters of Charity, Father Slattery, points out in his valuable preface, people of all ages, in all states of life have much to learn from this biography. Her work has prospered and there are now ten thousand Sisters of Charity in America working chiefly amongst the poor and suffering.

X.Y.

WHAT IS CONTEMPLATION; By Thomas Merton, O.C.R. (Paternoster Series 7; Burns Oates; 1s. 6d.)

Thomas Merton has established himself in the forefront of modern spiritual writers. This fact, coupled with the subject-matter of the pamphlet, ought to ensure for it a wide circulation. It is a satisfying little book in so far as anything so slight can be satisfying: sound teaching set down with a calmness and understanding that makes more appeal on that very account. What better tribute can one pay to any book than to say that it is easy to read and well worth reading?

A.D.

VIVRE DIEU. By Régis Gerest, O.P. (Editions de Cerf; pp. 310.)

This little book deals with our life as Christians, considered in its essential element, 'to love God' by the practice of the theological virtues. For those who are sufficiently well instructed, it should prove invaluable as a help to mental prayer; the division into numbered sections and short numbered paragraphs seems to make it particularly suitable for this purpose, or better still, perhaps, for meditative reading. The Holy Scriptures, St Thomas, together with St Teresa of Avila and St John of the Cross are frequently quoted, and the author's well merited reputation as a spiritual writer is a sure guarantee of the soundness of his doctrine.

A.F.