

simple that a child will respond to the sweet music of its verse and the deep truth the verse conveys. . . . The verses we read and meditate here come to refresh our devotion: in them we find sacred scripture as their source and fount; in them too we find an authentic quality springing from a mind and heart that gives us the fruit of contemplation'. Each Mystery is given a single stanza, packed with ideas, in a style that suggests the artless quality of Fr Tabb or Michael Field in *Mystic Trees* and *Poems of Devotion*.

The publishers and printers have gone to great pains to give an exquisite setting to these poems in hand-set type on hand-made paper. The result is a superb piece of book-production of pre-war quality. B. D.

THE SEVEN DEADLY VIRTUES. Bernard Basset, S.J. (Douglas Organ; 6s.)

You'll appreciate the significance of this provocative title when you've read about Mrs Whelan, with her beans for the servants' breakfast—'Heavens! what appetites they brought from Ireland'—nice American things for her own (that would make six packets locked up in the cupboard on the stairs, thank God!), her cigarettes from under the counter (the Wood girls were both in the Altar Society), and her leather-bound prayer-book much in evidence in the top, front seat in church. And you'll see the point of it again in the holiday at Torquay—'to get away from everything we had brought everything with us'—though it's the delicious humour of the situation that sticks out here.

This book of short stories should sell like hot cakes. Father Basset has a gimlet eye for the fads and frailties of human nature, and he serves them up with a nice sprinkling of wit and wisdom. All his characters are alive: we have met the dear old Canon, the charming, overwhelming Marjorie, tiresome Mr Brice ('Funny life, isn't it?'), poor Major Wilcock, and lovable Mrs Ponsonby; not forgetting, of course, our old misguided friend, Mrs Whelan. But perhaps 'Our Liturgical Parish' is the pick of the boiling. We seem to recognise Mrs O'Brien, young Atkinson, and Mrs Draycott-Wilson. Thank heavens, though, the Canon knew all the answers—as usual.

So does Father Basset. And let's hope he goes on with his glorious 'debunking'. It's good entertainment—especially for those 'in the know'. E. E.

ABOUT JESUS. By C. J. Woollen. (Sands; 6s.)

A new book for Catholic children is always welcome, and Mr Woollen's book, *About Jesus*, will be especially acceptable to teachers of juniors and infants. Many children may enjoy reading the book for themselves but one feels that the rather small print and long paragraphs may put them off. Young people are much affected by the mere look of a book and for this reason many would have