

HANDBUCH DER SPEZIELLEN PASTORALMEDIZIN. By Dr Albert Niedermeyer. (Erster Band, Verlag Herder, Wien, 1949.)

This handbook on a special aspect of Pastoral Medicine, namely the sexual one, is planned in six volumes, and it is the author's aim to cover the entire field of sex in all its ramifications. The first volume, which is the only one to have been published so far, deals with the physiology and pathology of sex and includes a special section on marriage, the origins of this institution, its Christian meaning, and the various duties, rights and problems connected with it. The book does not only give the most modern medical and biological teaching, but also the legal aspect to questions wherever it is necessary. Most important of all, the author is intimately acquainted with psychoanalytic thought and over and over again points out that disturbances in sexual matters and recurring difficulties should be dealt with by advising psychological treatment. The existing volume has a most valuable and extraordinarily comprehensive list of literature used appended to the end of every section. In an appendix of particular interest the author compares the biological theories of St Thomas and his teachings on the differences between the sexes with modern biological, sociological and metaphysical ideas in which he succeeds in showing that they do not clash, but that on the contrary St Thomas's genius was so great that he was conscious of problems which science has become aware of only in recent times.

It seems to me that this work will be of the greatest help not only to priests but to doctors, psychologists, social workers and teachers as well, and we await the appearance of the other volumes with impatience, particularly the volume which is to deal with the psychotherapeutic approach. It is a pity that an English translation is probably too big a task to be undertaken.

VERA VON DER HEYDT.

THE INVERT AND HIS SOCIAL ADJUSTMENT. By Anomaly. (Bailliere Tindall and Cox; 8s.6d.)

This book was first published in 1927 and has now appeared in a second edition with a sequel. The book is primarily a plea for understanding of the problems that beset the male invert. Throughout the book the sincerity and Catholic devotion of 'Anomaly' are apparent but to the reader of 1949 the stresses and emphases of a book written on such a subject in 1927 seem to be inadequate and misleading. There is so much more known today, not only about the environmental conditions which influence the love-life of the child and adolescent but also of the component parts of the individual personality. Studies of the child in the family have shown the important part played by the parents in its development. Work on the individual psyche has shown that each one contains both masculine and feminine characteristics. It is faulty relationship