

tent to leave people at this stage. Christianity is about becoming an autonomous person. If young people are led to believe that Christianity is only a set of rules, then can they be blamed for turning away? Christianity is a challenge for mature people, it is not a soft option nor is it an escape from the realities and many problems of life but in facing up to and coping with them. This, I believe, should be the content of religious education, and

then prayer and the sacraments will begin to make sense to the young.

The author has 'offered' his book to those interested in Catholic education. I hope the offer will be accepted by those for whom the book has been aimed and that the questions raised will be considered urgently and acted upon and not just talked about and then shelved or placed in the 'pending' tray.

H. WILSON

THINKING ABOUT HUMAN RIGHTS by Edward Rogers

THINKING ABOUT EDUCATION by Krister Ottosson

THINKING ABOUT RURAL DEVELOPMENT by Ralph Whitlock. Lutterworth Press. 1978 £2.25 each.

To quote the editor of this series, these books are intended '... to provide teachers of many subjects with a common basis and starting point for co-operation in helping pupils to discover some links between history, geography, economics, culture politics, sociology and religious studies.' This is quite a modest goal when material dealing with the important issue of third world development is presented in such a clear, concise and attractive way. The series will have a much more profound effect on its readers. Politically-orientated religious teachers (are there any religious teachers worthy of the name who aren't?) are faced with the difficulty of firing the interest of their pupils in problems which seem far enough away to be easily ignored. The series should be invaluable in helping to overcome this.

Anyone wishing to make a first enquiry in the field of human rights could do no better than to read 'Thinking About Human Rights.' Almost every aspect of human rights is, at least, mentioned, if not discussed, but if we look for a discussion of the philosophical issues involved we will not find it. For example, on the fundamental question of where human rights originate, we are told, '... they belong to our God-given heritage, and are not the capricious gift of governments.' This may be true but it would have been more satisfying to find a bit of argument to back up this hypothesis. The reader must glean the philosophy from the text or, if he can't find any, provide his own. And this is what the book sets out to do, to get people to think and to read more about universal justice. The whole of the final chapter poses questions to set one thinking and

discussing. Throughout, the author has tried to be as fair as possible, with the result that none of the developed countries comes out of the human rights issue smelling of roses. All in all this is a very worthwhile publication and I hope it will eventually be issued in paperback so it will more-easily reach the larger public it deserves.

'Thinking about Education', although dealing with less emotive issues, is worth investigation. As the author says, '... it is through education that a change can be made in the basic attitudes of people-- a change of attitudes which must come before there can be any worthwhile changes in the economic and social structures of society.' We, in the developed countries, have 'domesticating education', that is, we educate to perpetuate the status quo. 'Liberating education' is what we, just as much as the developing countries, need if we are to obtain a system worthy of the name of education.

I was under the impression that great strides had been made in rural development, but Ralph Whitlock, author of 'Thinking About Rural Development', presents a very gloomy picture. He has spent more than thirty years of his life as a farmer-- a group not well-known for their optimism. It is the prospect of future overpopulation that depresses him and he offers no solution for this.

The books are very well laid-out. Perhaps they are too well-presented on high quality paper with lots of good photographs, bound between thick glossy boards. Still, they should stand up to a lot of use. They are intended to be used and deservedly so.

TONY AXE O. P.