

revelation within the framework provided by the Church's development of it, but in this book scripture is simply made use of to illustrate developed doctrine. The Marian passages which produced adverse comment and a correspondence in *The Times Literary Supplement* are fairly typical. The reviewer was wrong to doubt their orthodoxy, and exaggerated their importance in relation to the rest of the book, but had any real theological justification for them been given his remarks would not have been made. We shall never have a theologically educated laity as long as mediocre books continue to be put out. A. M. Roguet's book on the sacraments a year or two ago was short, clear, and written with theological insight. A pity that bad money tends to drive out good.

LAURENCE BRIGHT, O.P.

LOVE OF OUR NEIGHBOUR. A Symposium. (Blackfriars; 12s. 6d.)

This book was published two years ago in French by Les Editions du Cerf under the title of *L'Amour du Prochain*. In the words of the Editor Père Plé it is offered not as a short theological treatise on love of one's neighbour, but to help prepare the way for such a thing. The general principles on which the present work is based are among the central data of our faith: God is love, he loves us, and he asks us to love him; to love God is to love our neighbour, to love our neighbour is to love God. The brilliant little essay in the third section on the *Divine Dialectic* shows how far removed from the Hegelian dialectic of master and slave is christian love of God and neighbour. The three essays in the first section of the book present us with the notion of love of neighbour as set forth in the Bible; in the second part we have three essays on the theological principles of charity; and the six essays which make up the last section are studies on the relations between people from the points of view of modern psychology, philosophy and sociology. In spite of the excellent work of the translators there are a number of essays in the third section that are not easy reading; but this is perhaps the most interesting and informative part of a book that contains much that is good.

HIS HEART IN OUR WORK. (Browne and Nolan; 15s.)

This book is a collection of some forty short essays by various authors selected from the pages of the American quarterly bulletin for priests, *Alter Christus*, for the years 1937-50. Clearly no one asked to write a four-page article for a periodical such as this would want to attempt anything very much in the way of speculative theology or scriptural exegesis. But is it expecting too much to ask for a breath of Scripture somewhere, even in a four-page essay written for what would be called a

simple devotional quarterly magazine? To turn to St Paul or the Gospels after an hour with this book is like moving out into the country from the oppressive heat of a big city. Apart from a few passing allusions there is very little on Christ the living Person of the Gospels, and the essays on the Sacred Heart give the impression of talking about a heart and not about a man. Significantly enough there is not a word anywhere about preaching. Given the circumstances and the occasion for the writing of the individual essays it would be unfair to criticize them too severely, but one cannot praise the decision to present them in the form of a book. It is the sort of book that 'busy pastors' tend to misuse.

MURDOCH SCOTT, O.P.

**THE GOSPEL PRIESTHOOD.** By Dom Hubert van Zeller. (Burns and Oates; 10s. 6d.)

This book is a collection of twelve monthly articles from *Emmanuel* of 1954 and so is loosely hung on the high points of the liturgical year. They are intended as reflections on various aspects of the priest's life on the parish and point the attitude of mind with which the priest must approach them. That is good—for it is useless to attack the surface symptoms and not rather the attitude that produces them. Dom Hubert is always stimulating and he calls these articles 'jabs from the short sword' to awaken the conscience, but sometimes one feels the jabs may produce only flesh-wounds, for there is a curious remoteness about it—very different from such a book as *Vessel of Clay* or *A Man Approved*.

It certainly cannot be due to lack of imagination, for the author's other books show he has plenty of that. Perhaps it is due to lack of context, not sufficiently down to earth. There is no mention of the loneliness of the secular priest's life, the burden of finance and form-filling, discouragement from leakage, stupidity of others and consciousness of one's own limitations. His spiritual advice is sound but lacks punch. And even today when book prices have soared, ten-and-six seems rather a large sum for a slight book of scarcely a hundred pages.

BRUNO DONOVAN, O.S.B.

**THE NEW MAN.** By Ronald Gregor Smith. (S.C.M. Press; 10s. 6d.)

This book, which bears the sub-title, *Christianity and Man's Coming of Age*, consists of five lectures originally given in Australia. At the beginning of his first lecture the author tells us that on the groundwork of a study of the biblical teaching about the main content of the religion of Israel he is attempting to present a view of the christian understanding of man in history.