

is a necessary consequence of the first) which bears the most effective witness to Christ. 'Behold how these Christians love one another' was first an expression of genuine *admiratio* before it became a sneer.

Despite these reservations, there is much in this book to nourish the spiritual life of a Catholic. Indeed such a reader with his background of a living and unbroken tradition dating from N.T. times is in a privileged position to supply the deficiencies of this present essay, even in the precise sphere of *biblical* theology. The Christ whom we encounter in the sacred pages commands all history, and in a special way the divinely appointed communities, the two Israels, which radiate from him: the one, the old Israel backwards to the election of Abraham; the other, the new Israel, forwards from Pentecost to the Parousia. To understand even the biblical Christ, we must be in vital contact with both these communities. Such contact with the former is possible from reading the O.T. But the latter, full contact implies being *in* that community itself which now exists in unbroken succession from the Apostles.

RONALD TORBET, O.P.

THE MEDITATIONS OF WILLIAM OF ST THIERRY. Translated from the Latin by a Religious of C.S.M.V. (Mowbrays; 7s. 6d.)

No theoretical studies of our inheritance in medieval spiritual writing can be any real substitute for open access to the works themselves. The humble task of the translator is still for us in England a very necessary one, though of course it demands something more than mere conscientiousness. It is indeed strange that William of St Thierry, a Cistercian writer of a genius which, although distinctive, makes him comparable to St Bernard himself, should hitherto have attracted so little attention. His *Golden Epistle* has been available in English for some years, but nothing more. Those who have already found pleasure and profit in the translations of this Anglican Sister will need no special encouragement to acquire a new one. It makes no pretensions to scholarship, but it does its job efficiently and sympathetically. Anyone who has yet to make the acquaintance of this great monk with the penetration of a true theologian could not do better than begin here.

A.S.

THE NEW TESTAMENT BASIS OF PACIFISM. By G. H. C. MacGregor, D.D., D.LITT. (The Fellowship of Reconciliation. New and revised edition; 5s.)

This is an important book as it is perhaps the best exposition of the Christian pacifist case from a non-Catholic standpoint. On the whole Dr MacGregor presents his material in a careful and objective manner