

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

To the Editor of THE LIFE OF THE SPIRIT

Dear Sir,

I have been reading the article on the Divine Office ('The Embracing Prayer', by a Layman), in your last number of THE LIFE OF THE SPIRIT, and notice that he there regrets the lack of an English translation of the Roman Breviary. As an Associate of the Society of St Margaret I would like to point out that three years ago the Oxford University Press published an English translation of the revised Roman Breviary for the Society of St Margaret. It contains the Day and Night Office together, in two volumes (Advent to Whitsun: and Trinitytide), and costs 50s. a volume. In view of the growing interest in the Divine Office among the laity, there may be some who would appreciate this. It is obtainable from St Saviour's Priory, Queensbridge Road, E.2; or from St Margaret's Convent, East Grinstead.

Yours faithfully,

KATHARINE WHITAKER



## REVIEWS

THE MEANING OF THE MONASTIC LIFE. By Louis Bouyer. (Burns Oates; 21s.)

ST BENEDICT AND HIS MONKS. By Theodore Maynard. (Kenedy; \$3.00.)

These two books on Monastic Life are written by authors who are not themselves monks; perhaps that is why neither can be recommended without reserve. Dr Maynard aims at giving 'the average person a general idea of St Benedict's life and Rule, indicating something of Benedictine history throughout the centuries, not neglecting the influence of the Benedictine spirit on Catholic life today'. This apparently ambitious programme is modified by the modest admission that 'no pretence is made of giving information that is other than fragmentary'. In fact the work might be described as a Benedictine Digest mainly of the books of the late Abbots Butler and Chapman, and one cannot help noticing that Dr Maynard is more often concerned with the discussions of thirty years ago than those of the present time. The first three chapters on St Benedict himself are the best, but the