

wisdom and here too can be found the highest authority for many propositions still regarded by some as daring innovations. It would have been a help if the references could have been given from the AAS or the *Clergy Review* rather than from the *Documentation Catholique*, which must be accessible to few among English-speaking readers.

Chapter III is a paper by Father de Lestapis, S.J., on the promotion of woman in the modern world. The examples and statistics concern France and one might query the wisdom of leaving this chapter in the English edition. At first sight one might be tempted to make the same remark about Chapter V on the adaptation of secondary and university courses of men to the teaching of women by a Religious of the Sacred Heart, but in fact the chapter is one of the most valuable in the whole book. Though the problems are discussed and solutions proposed in a French context, there is much here to interest educators in English-speaking lands. There is also a paper on doctrinal training of contemplatives. The whole collection is worthy of a place in our libraries alongside its predecessors.

RICHARD BLUNDELL, S.J.

JESUS THE SAVIOUR. By Fr James, O.F.M.CAP. (Gill & Sons; 12s. 6d.)

Fr James may have written a better book than this. If so, I have yet to read it. This one is certainly better than anything of his I have yet read or scanned and does more to justify the huge proportions of his public.

It is, first of all, written, nearly all, with a fine economy of words which seems to suggest an increased facility in the marshalling of thoughts: and his thoughts are worth marshalling. It is scriptural, it is Thomistic, it is easy reading. In short, it is a substantial and palatable spiritual reading book recommendable to anyone who desires to dwell upon the chief themes of our holy faith and will not be put off by an occasional obscurely technical phrase.

The main subjects are the love of God as shown in the Incarnation, the meaning of the life and work of St John the Baptist, Transfiguration, Redemption, Ascension. The chapter on Redemption is masterly, but will be best appreciated by those who have a little theological reading behind them. There is something inspiring in the chapter on the Ascension. The chapter on St John the Baptist is outstandingly good as a devotional and scriptural sketch. Not the least valuable part of this valuable book is the first chapter entitled 'Incarnation' which might be sub-titled 'In praise of St Thomas Aquinas'.

G. M. CORR, O.S.M.

THE GIFT OF ONESELF. By Joseph Schryvers, C.S.S.R. (Longmans; 9s. 6d.)

This reasonably priced presentation of a well-known work on self-

surrender, abandonment, moment-by-moment holiness, is another triumph by Longmans in their recent endeavour to popularize worthwhile books of spirituality. The book first appeared in English in 1934. The present translation, done by a Religious of Carmel Bettendorf, Iowa, wisely retains the French atmosphere, sometimes even the idiom, of the original. No one could really anglicize this piece of sanctity *à la française*.

The simple universal principle, 'Doing God's will, here and now, is sanctity', is systematically reiterated throughout the book, and applied to many factors, situations, attitudes, of ordinary people's ordinary search for holiness. The effect is rather over-stimulating. There are passages that suggest a sort of unreasoning reliance on one's own immediate inspiration. A few paragraphs, out of the context at least, could be quoted as over-simplification or exaggerations. But this is true, I think, of nearly all French books of spirituality. It is a pity. I suppose the French man-in-the-street is as immune to these things as we are to our prized illogicalities. The remedy is, as in this book, to keep the translation as French as possible, and perhaps to insist on some sort of explanatory preface in which obviously disconcerting phrases could be put in perspective. This treasurable book of Fr Schryvers, almost entirely free of such phrases, deserved the modicum of annotation which would have made it a perfect book for English readers as well as French ones.

G. M. CORR, O.S.M.

MAN OF FIRE. By Malachy Gerard Carroll. (Mercier Press; 12s. 6d.)

This is rather a collection of essays than a straight life. The subject is Father d'Alzon, who was born at Le Vigan in the Midi on August 30th, 1810.

Emmanuel d'Alzon came of an aristocratic family, cultured and holy, and when we read these character studies of a remarkable son of the Church we cannot help reflecting on the saying that the first school bench for a child is in the arms of its mother. He was nurtured in an atmosphere where vulgarity and mean empty sentiments were unknown; his ancestry had in it the sword always drawn to defend the right and the Church; we are not taken altogether by surprise to find the courage, the strength, the purity and the charity revealed in this account of his life.

The early part of the book is devoted to his upbringing, his studies, his decision to become a priest. At the end of 1828 we meet the first tentative formulation of his master purpose: 'I have discovered my aim. I wish to consecrate myself entirely to the defence of the Church and of religion'—and a few years later: 'As a religious I shall saturate