

which so often record the unusual, or relate stories of experiences that occur perhaps once in a lifetime.

The author, as the result, no doubt, of his having spent years himself on the missions, is most satisfactorily broad-minded, albeit a stickler for law, the laws for the missions, and for obedience to the local bishop. What goodness, indeed, is sometimes to be found in the pagans themselves; and how wise the missionary will be not to expect perfection in his converts, while at the same time, like his great patron, St Paul, doing his utmost to keep them on the path of the ten commandments! How wise, too, not to be condemning outright, and without careful investigation, *all* pagan rites and dances! The missionary must also have a large heart and much sympathy for his people, who have no tradition of Christianity behind them, and not expect elderly neophytes to be able to get all the niceties of religion into their heads. In every mission field people will be found who are best described by the Latin word *rudes*.

The last chapter in the book, 'Made perfect in infirmity', is one of the best. Patience and charity have to be exercised with the young priest who arrives and soon begins to show that he thinks none of the missionaries have been doing any work, or at least not doing it in the right way. And humility and gratitude to God, when a fresh young missionary arrives who, with no self-complacency or even self-assurance, carries everything before him, and achieves what the older fathers have been trying in vain to accomplish.

The book is certainly very cheap at 15s., and the reader will readily admit he has got his full money's worth. Though the print is so close, the proof-readers must have done their work with great care, so that the one and only misprint I noticed, and that a tiny one, is on page 61, line 12 from foot of page, where for *through* read *thought*. And may we be spared any more words like methodology—but perhaps this reviewer is old-fashioned.

R. P. DEVAS, O.P.

WE AND OUR CHILDREN. By Mary Newland. (Darton, Longman and Todd; 16s.)

To bring up a family in a truly Christian atmosphere is not only a difficult process, but also often a lonely one, for the circumstances vary so much from generation to generation that new approaches are continually needed. Mrs Newland's book abounds in practical and modern advice to parents. She writes in a refreshingly cheerful style, but she is a sufficiently skilful authoress to be able to express deep spiritual truths with great clarity and dignity, and the result is a most rewarding book which every Catholic family ought to try to afford.

Her basic assumption is that children can understand and follow the mysteries of the faith with far more insight and love than is generally imagined by adults. 'Children believe with simplicity because, along with the other gifts of the Holy Ghost at baptism, they possess the gift of wisdom, so different from the book-learning we think synonymous with wisdom. . . . This child's acceptance of the most staggering acts of creation is precisely that acceptance Christ said will qualify us for heaven.' She makes considerable, but I fear justifiable, demands on the parents. 'But if we apply ourselves seriously to teaching our children the spiritual life, one of the great challenges is the dare to turn the catechism into the happiest of all their studies. It should be. It could be. Perhaps the reason why it hasn't been so far is that we mistake it for an end, not a means. . . . The bone-dry definitions in the catechism are as essential as the recipe for the cake, but if we put them together with imagination and enthusiasm, and add love and experience, then set them afire with the teaching of Christ, his stories, his life, the old testament as well as the new, and the lives of the saints, we can make the study of the catechism a tremendous adventure.' That this high ideal can be attained is proved by Mrs Newland's teaching in her own family. Indeed, the extent to which the Newland family life is integrated with the liturgy must put most of us to shame, though Mrs Newland is never in any way smug, nor is there any air of 'holier than thou' about *We and Our Children*.

This book should be available in every local bookshop, and the more intrepid parish priests might risk buying a few to resell to the more devout of their parishioners who have large families. This is certainly what ought to be the case with a book so valuable as Mrs Newland's, yet the publishers seem determined to keep the sales to the minimum. Admittedly Darton, Longman and Todd are a new firm, and the cost of book production is high, but it is prohibitive to charge 16s. for a paper-backed edition, already published in the U.S.A., with no illustrations and running to a little over 275 pages. Perhaps the publishers could be persuaded to halve the price and thereby take a metaphorical leaf out of Mrs Newland's book by trusting more courageously in providence to look after their sales; I am sure that they will be rewarded if they take such a step.

E. M. G. BELFIELD

THE SEARCH FOR VALUES. By Russell Coleburt. (Sheed and Ward; 12s. 6d.)

This is an attempt to discern the important things in life. Mr Coleburt, making use of art and literature in a most persuasive way, sets out to diagnose and clarify the prevailing malady of our time, when