

reason for electing him, and St Thomas said: 'If he is a saint, let him pray for us; if he is a good preacher, let him preach; if he is a prudent man, let him be our prior'.—ED.]



REVIEWS

MOTHER OF THE REDEEMER—ASPECTS OF DOCTRINE AND DEVOTION.

Edited by Fr Kevin McNamara. (Dublin, M. H. Gill and Son Ltd; 35s.)

Many of us have felt the need for an up-to-date, soundly theological symposium of mariology in English, one which would avoid the exaggerations to which this branch of theology seems peculiarly prone and yet give a full picture of Mary's place in the theology of the Church. That is why it is good to have this present book which to some extent answers this need. It represents the lectures given at Maynooth in 1954 at a summer school series by a team of experts, and it may be fairly said as the publishers claim that 'all the main headings of marian doctrine are here skilfully and judiciously treated'.

The book opens with four general chapters on Mary in the old and new testaments and in tradition. The chapters on the old testament are by Fr Duncker, O.P. The first deals with modern interpretations (especially those of Rigaux and Coppens) of what has become a notorious crux in mariology, Genesis iii, 15; the second discusses the interpretations of Isaias vii, 14. Both are done quite fully but some may find it heavy reading. The new testament chapter by Fr Kearns, O.P., aims at showing how new trends of research and discussion among exegetes are throwing new light on even familiar marian texts. Luke i and ii have felt the fullest impact of these new methods and this chapter examines the new approach as exemplified particularly in the annunciation narrative. The general chapter on Mary in the patristic age is also by Fr Duncker and leans heavily (as he himself acknowledges) on Jousard's excellent study in Volume I of *Maria*. It shows the development of marian thought in the writings of the Fathers according to the three themes of divine maternity, virginity and holiness.

After these four introductory chapters there are specialized chapters on the divine maternity (Fr McGreevy), the immaculate conception and the assumption (Mgr Davis), the virginity of our Lady (Fr Dermot Ryan), Mary's role in the redemption and the mediation of graces (Fr O'Grady, S.J.), our Lady queen of the universe (Fr McNamara), our Lady and the Church (Fr O'Donoghue, O.D.C.), the meaning of Lourdes

(Fr C. Daly), and the doctrinal content of Irish marian piety (Fr Cunnane).

Not all the contributions will be on the same level of interest—this is inevitable in any symposium. The last chapter, for example, was in one way indicated by the circumstances of place, and no doubt it was felt that some national contribution would be appropriate, as of course it is. The chapter by Fr Daly may also be of a more general appeal, although it offers an interesting approach to the whole question of Lourdes and a *résumé* of the more recent writings and investigations on the subject.

Of the specialized studies I found the paper on the co-redemption somewhat disappointingly conservative. There is no new light shed on the question, but then perhaps we have reached saturation point on this particular doctrine. At all events Fr O'Grady plays absolutely safe and there is no place here for *avant-garde* theories of people like Llamera or Lebon. He follows the same approach on the mediation, he is most cautious on the kind of causality possible to our Lady in the distribution of grace. If one wants to be ultra-conservative on these two questions then everything is here that needs to be said.

One should make mention of an interesting chapter on our Lady's virginity by Fr Dermot Ryan. This not only gives a full presentation of the development of the doctrine, but also takes full account of the recent views of Mittlerer on the exact constituent of *virginitas in partu*. Another noteworthy chapter deals with our Lady and the Church—a subject absorbing more and more attention in modern mariology. It throws helpful light on the modern approach to Mary as a type of the Church and the views of modern German theologians such as Rahner and Müller on this subject.

The book is well indexed and some of the papers carry a select bibliography as a guide to further reading. It may not be quite what the expert wants but it will certainly be found most useful by the busy priest who feels wistfully that he ought to try and catch up on all this 'modern stuff' on our Lady and is daunted by the lack of accessible material. The main themes are all here and are well treated in the main, and it is hoped that this book will have a wide circulation not only among priests and seminarians but also among educated lay people who wish to know more of our Lady's place in the theology of the Church.

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OUR LADY IN THE LITURGY. By Dom E. Flicoteaux; translated by Dom Aldhelm Dean. (Challoner Publications, London; 7s. 6d.)

The supercilious liturgist who is apt to deplore the artistic excesses of May processions or point with disdain at some good soul saying the