

EXTRACTS

WELCOME indeed to many layfolk will be the second and cheaper edition of the *Book of Psalms* according to the new Latin Version with Mgr Knox's trick translation. 'Trick' at least is the dexterity of the acrostic psalms where the translator takes on the character of a conjuror. Whatever the reader's views may be regarding the new Latin version or the suitability of Mgr Knox's translation, so long as these views are strong (which they should be) he will snap up this volume, well bound in cloth and printed in two colours, which is presented to him for 8s. 6d. We only urge that in the third edition page headings may be inserted to assist the user in finding the psalm he is looking for.

A CORRESPONDENT writes of the *Legion of Mary*: 'In my proposed book I link up this active Army of Mary which already numbers 6 millions and which is rapidly conquering every country new and old with the happenings of Fatima. It came into being in 1921 on the very heels of Fatima, and without knowing anything about the latter yet began to carry out its message—"say the Rosary, get people to say the Rosary". The legionaries are tramping the streets of cities and towns all over the world getting people to do that, and constantly visiting them to see that it is done. The enclosed (list of legionaries in a New Zealand diocese) will serve as an example. All these branches I founded merely in the last few months while I was waiting to return to England. It was in the Archdiocese where the Legion had not even been allowed to exist up till then, and the total of 3,399 was made by personal contact of legionaries visiting systematically every catholic home in the parishes in which they were established. An "auxiliary" is one who pledges himself to the daily Rosary plus the Magnificat and other legionary prayers (including the invocation, "Immaculate Heart of Mary, pray for us"). It has always seemed incredible to me, when reading the revelations of Fatima which are dominated by the note of terrible urgency, that the world should have had to wait until practically the present before they be put into effect. No, during that necessary and long time-lag for testing (now successfully passed) happening in a natural way and on the very birthday of Mary, the Legion was again the inspiration and work of none other but Mary (as the Legion has always claimed).'

CATHOLIC ACTION among the youth of England, if we are to judge from literary output, is very much on the increase. In particular the Bulletin of L.O.C.K., which struggled so heroically through the war

as an organ for members, has now blossomed out into a first-rate and cheap review as *The Key* (6s. per annum from Berrington, Horsell Rise, Woking, Surrey). As anyone who knows the League of Christ the King would expect, the spiritual life, the foundation of the apostolate, is well supplied with the nourishment it needs with articles on Fatima by Father Martindale, on the spiritual formation of the apostle, on liberty of conscience, and on religion in the army. The first issue certainly shows great vitality and a promise of keeping closely in touch with reality.

The Catholic Action Girls Organisation has brought out two useful handbooks for the Enquiries 1948-1949. The Campaign for the Y.C.G. turns round the *Problems of Life* for 'militants' and for 'general members' together with the Gospel enquiry on the Our Father. These enquiries are of the greatest importance as they give the members the chance of recognising the anguished claims of true Christian life in the midst of the vast sweeping tide of paganism around them. And the members must judge of real facts and take definite action. The Y.C.G. Campaign considering *Our Everyday World* aims at contacting the student's world from the same angle but without quite the same intensity. In school life the challenge is naturally not so striking. (These handbooks are to be obtained for 1s. and 1s. 4d. respectively from 22 Bramham Gardens, S.W.5., whence comes also a general handbook on the Y.C.G. called *Young Christian Groups*, 1s. 6d.)

GABRIEL MARCEL'S CONTRIBUTION to the 'Enquiry into Spiritual Reading' undertaken by *Témoignage Chrétien* is at first sight disappointing, for 'it is curious how little spiritual books have affected me'. But

what has counted for me, what interests me, is facts. I cannot, for example, escape the fact of miracles, of apparitions or even of premonitions. These are events which I take seriously and which I take into account and on which my reflections and my interior life depend. Recently, in travelling through Portugal I came to Fatima. I was extraordinarily impressed. Certainly it was not the setting, for I am very sensitive to the beauty of a countryside and Fatima is the one ugly place in the whole of Portugal. But from that crowd of pilgrims there arose an amazing sense of the supernatural.

The frank and humble avowals of the Christian philosopher would perhaps surprise those who only know of his intellectual work. For Gabriel Marcel, music provides a stronger spiritual nourishment than those books which for the most part are 'bad translations of what is untranslatable. I am never at my ease in that intermediate territory between music—for me the only language adequate to translate inner

experience—and philosophy where the demands on one's intellectual allegiance are absolute'.

As a post-script one remembers Etienne Gilson's notable tribute to M. Marcel:

He represents the type of a wholly dedicated man, entirely given over to the service of life and the spirit. That wonderful word 'incarnation', which has so deep a meaning in his teaching, reflects the supreme effort which he has *lived* before endowing it with its philosophical expression.

BOOKS RECEIVED

- Bloomsbury Publishing Co.* Sister Mary Ansgar, O.P.: A Nature Note Book, 1s. 0d.
Burns, Oates. Book of Psalms (New Latin Version with translation by Mgr R. Knox), 6s. 0d.; W. Shewring (Ed.): Rich and Poor in Christian Tradition, 10s. 6d.
Casterman. Raymond Christoflour (Ed.): Morceaux choisies de la Vie Religieuse, 48fr.
Cerf. Les Adaptations de la Vie Religieuse, 120fr.
Clonmore and Reynolds. J. Carbonel, S.J.: Little Thérèse, 7s. 6d.; Dermot Casey, S.J.: The Nature and Treatment of Scruples, 2s. 6d.; Bernard J. Kelly, C.S.Sp.: The Armour of Christ, 8s. 6d.
Daubin. André Menabréa: St Vincent de Paul, n.p.
Desclée de Brouwer. S. I. Dockx, O.P.: Fils de Dieu par Grâce, 80fr.
English (John). The Handbook of the Association of the Priests' Universal Union of the Friends of the Sacred Heart, 1s. 0d.; Mother Louise Margaret Claret de la Touche: The Book of Infinite Love, 5s. 0d.; The Sacred Heart and the Priesthood, 7s. 6d.
Gill (Dublin). The Story of Brother Mucian, F.S.C., 5s. 0d.
Medical Missionaries of Mary. The First Decade, 7s. 6d.
Mercier Press. Bernard J. Kelly, C.S.Sp.: First Steps in the Religious Life, 8s. 6d.; Thomas à Kempis: The Imitation of Mary, 10s. 6d.; Marie René-Bazin: She Who Lived Her Name, 12s. 6d.
S.C.M. Dietrich Bonhoeffer: The Cost of Discipleship, 9s. 0d.
Sheed and Ward. Josef Pieper: The Human Wisdom of St Thomas, 6s. 0d.
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