

notes by her husband, Littleton Powys, though not entirely even in quality—she was at her best when writing to other writers, as is shown by the beautiful series to John Cowper Powys—besides the interesting light it throws on the width of her reading, the genesis of her novels and her method of working, shows an equally intense generosity of spirit, and a deep understanding of the experience of suffering. 'I am sure', she writes to Bruce Marshall, 'you have found, as I have, that every loss brings some unexpected gain and that God returns a hundredfold the things he takes away. *I sympathise with you, my dear, but I am not sorry for you.*' (p. 311); and in the same letter she quotes a most moving paragraph from her own 'Mrs Christopher' to 'speak for her'.

There are few of these letters which do not, in a phrase of Gorki she was fond of quoting, 'strike a reader on the heart like a blow from a stick', and all combine to give the impression of someone who loved all created things, almost without discrimination, but rightly, by reason of her profound through often unexpressed faith.

B.W.

**DAS ERSTE WUNDER JESU.** By Rudolf Schnackenburg. (Herder, Freiburg; 3 DM.)

A new volume in Herder's series *Die Biblische Schatzkammer* gives a useful little commentary on John 2, 1-11, the narrative of the miracle of Cana, in which the author traces the leading ideas of Johannine theology—ideas such as 'revelation', 'glory', 'faith', and the underlying conception of Christ's Person and mission. A valuable aid to homiletics or devotion in the compass of sixty-seven pages.

**HANDBUCH DER DOGMENGESCHICHTE.** Edited by M. Schmaus, J. Geiselman and H. Rahner. Band IV, Faszikel 3, *Busse und Letzte Ölung*, by Dr Bernhard Poschmann. (Herder, Freiburg; 12 DM.)

This is the first part to appear of Herder's long-planned and comprehensive *History of Dogma*, which seeks to supply the need for an up-to-date Catholic successor to such works as Schwane, which dates back to 1862, and Tixeront and de Groot, which only deal with the earlier period. It will consist of four volumes and a supplement, arranged according to subject-matter, and will appear in fascicles, as rapidly as present conditions allow.

This fascicle, by a well-known authority, deals competently and concisely with the history of Penance and Extreme Unction, and is particularly lucid on the early controversies. There are copious references, and bibliographies precede each of the chronological sections.

B.W.