

NOTES ON RECENT BOOKS

FOR THEE ALONE (Herder; 18s. 6d.) was occasioned by the author's being asked to give a series of conferences to a community of Sisters whose life was based on the Rule of St Augustine. Fr H. J. Beutler, C.M., begins his talks to the religious with one on devotion to St Thomas Aquinas with 'Nothing but Thyself, Lord' as his text. With St Augustine and St Thomas behind him Fr Beutler becomes very practical on such themes as the prevention of sickness in convents and the practices of Christian modesty. The style is sometimes stilted.

IN THE SERVICE OF YOUTH (Sands; 10s. 6d.) is a translation of a life of St Jeanne de Lestonnac, who was canonised in 1949. She was a widow who became the foundress of the first teaching order for girls in France. Her Order of the Daughters of Notre Dame has two houses in England, of which the one at Cobham is the novitiate; there are many more in America and on the Continent.

QUEEN OF HEAVEN (Sands; 6s.) by Miss Teresa Lloyd gives in effect a scheme of our Lady's life from her birth, throughout the Gospels and then in history up to the present time. The style is simple and attractive and it makes a happy compendium of devotion to our Lady with plenty of food for meditation.

THE PRAYER OF FAITH (Messenger Office; 6s.) by Fr Boase, S.J., was written to supplement the many practical books on how to pray, which often make this essential Christian activity seem rather complicated. This is a book of theory to show *why* the Christian prays. Such was the author's intention and he set out to write with simple modern examples, such as 'The Becher's Brook of prayer', to explain prayer to the laity. Yet he seems to have achieved a fairly comprehensive summary of what many great writers have already described. We still need a really thorough book on the theory of prayer placing it in its true context of the Mystical Body and the Sacraments.

MORE PROFESSIONAL PRAYERS (R. H. Johns; 4s. 6d.) is the posthumous conclusion of Fr A. Gille's series of prayers, many of which have appeared in *The Catholic Herald*. They arouse deep feelings either of dislike or pleasure. They contain a lot of sound sense, but whether such sense should be couched in terms of direct speech with God is a matter of differing opinions.

THIRTY-THREE FRIDAYS (M. H. Gill; 7s. 6d.) provides priests with short meditations on the sufferings of the High Priest, the Lamb of God. The author is Fr Aloysius, O.F.M.CAP.