

His were the temptations of the intellectual and the sufferings of a genius at the hands of his intellectual inferiors. For all those who would better understand Newman's character and his own highly individual way to God this is an indispensable book.

HILDA C. GRAEF

TENDERS OF THE FLOCK. By Leo Trese. (Sheed and Ward; 10s. 6d.)

'I feel that I am pretty much an average priest', says Father Trese on the first page. We cannot help wishing that he were. He is, if he will not think it fulsome, pretty well what the average priest ought to be. And the book is very like Father Corry's book, *As We Ought*, only for secular priests whereas Father Corry wrote for religious. It is a conversational and slightly breezy analysis of what the priestly vocation should mean, i.e. of a practical priest's practical way of holiness in the busy life of a parish.

Seventeen angles upon the mind and heart of an ordinary priest in a parish: seventeen chapters of self-examination, honest reflection, practical advice. He is exhortatory, in a bluff, man-to-man sort of way, all through, but what holds the attention is the string of sincere and shrewd remarks about the detailed realities of priestly life, as distinct from general ideals. He speaks from experience: he has practised before preaching.

Father Trese's previous book *Vessel of Clay* has been described by Father Martindale as 'remorseless'. There is perhaps a trace of that quality in the first chapter of this book, but hardly anywhere else. In some ways he seems to fall short of the standard usually placed before a priest. He seems content with very little preparation for Mass and thanksgiving after Mass, and he seems to be resigned to a lower standard of Latin than actually obtains among priests. His remark that it is legitimate to pray for an English breviary will produce varied reactions. But his remarks on prayer, on prudence, on money, on immoderate activity, on parochialism, on wasted effort, on preaching, will reach the heart of every priest, secular or religious. This is a book that every priest should read at least once.

G. M. CORR, O.S.M.

MEDITATING THE GOSPELS. By Emeric Lawrence, O.S.B. (The Liturgical Press, Minnesota; \$3.90.)

'For years I have been reading about the Bible as the source and sustenance of mental prayer. But I have not been able to find completely satisfactory selections of the Bible so prayed.'

It is not easy to understand what the author means exactly by these opening words of his Preface; not easy, that is, if we refuse to admit

the suspicion that he has rather surprising notions about why and how we read God's Word in the Bible, and an unusual view of mental prayer. We become more uneasy when we read in the Introduction (and the remark is made by way of commendation) that 'Father Emeric actually makes the meditation for us'.

It is quite clear what the author has done: he has taken the Gospels for every Mass in the missal and constructed a dialogue in which he speaks to our Lord about the Gospel message. It is a one-way conversation in which God does all the listening. Presumably Fr Emeric did not actually speak his thoughts out loud, but in reading these conversation pieces we are made to feel that he was always aware of an audience in the background listening in to him thinking out loud. Do we, for instance, when engaged in prayerful meditation, introduce parentheses to explain to God what we think he is telling us? Delete from any of these 'I to Thou' meditations all second person singular pronouns, modify the vocative cases, and we are left with simple, straightforward, five-minute sermons. It is only out of the fulness of our contemplation that we preach at all, and there is no inherent objection to our reflections and sermons finding their way into print. But we do not meditate in order to preach a sermon or write a book. However generous we may want to be towards this immense labour of love, we cannot help feeling that the author has unconsciously made *contemplata aliis tradere* the object of meditation.

MURDOCH SCOTT, O.P.

A POCKET BOOK FOR CHRISTIANS, put together by a Religious C.S.M.V.
(S.C.M. Press.)

A small book of prayers for all occasions, pocket-book size, by an Anglican nun. Anyone using it will be greatly helped to learn to pray 'without ceasing'. It is designed to be used by Christians of all allegiances. Catholics may well find it useful too. Our Lady's Assumption and Coronation are left out and the Church, the Mystical Body of Christ and Life Everlasting are substituted for them, in the Anglican version of the Rosary at the end of this little book. What a pity. Our Lady's Assumption and Coronation give us the whole doctrine of the Mystical Body and Everlasting Life, and give it completely, because our Lady is the first-fruits of Christ's redeeming power, and is now in heaven where we hope one day to be. This is evidently not understood by Anglicans and accounts for their failure to comprehend the doctrine of the Assumption and its implications. Catholics who may use this book will continue to use the traditional way in praying their rosaries and thus to penetrate the mystery of the Incarnation in its fullness.