

Reviews

modern world, it can be justly urged that the author's intention included no such ambition : but there is certainly an implication that modern administrative methods can accomplish changes which can result only from a moral revolution in the corporate mind. Specially noteworthy features of the book are the attention paid to every section of a very wide subject, illustrated from all states, though predominantly the English-speaking; continual appeal to principles; and the application of these to practical affairs by the citation of the social encyclicals of Popes Leo XIII and Pius XI. A valuable, if a trifle stodgy, work of the encyclopaedic type.

S.H.

ETUDES CARMELITAINES, *Mystiques et Missionaires*. Octobre, 1932. (Paris : Desclée de Brouwer. Pp. 268. 15 fr.)

This remarkable bi-annual review, to which BLACKFRIARS has already drawn attention, continues to offer, not ephemerality, but substantial contributions to the scientific study of mysticism. Miracles, and preternatural phenomena generally, are not essential to the mystical state—a point which is only beginning to receive its proper publicity through the revival and extension of what may be called the Dominican and Carmelite school of spirituality. Teresa Neuman is not a saint because of the extraordinary happenings about her. Still, we are grateful for two lengthy articles in which Prof. Lavaud, O.P., gives her history and Dr. van der Elst a psycho-physiological study of her case. M. Etienne Borne with sympathy and penetration compares Christian and Bergsonian spirituality, basing himself on the recently published *Deux Sources de la Morale et de la Religion* (Paris, Alcan)—a book of capital importance to which BLACKFRIARS promises serious consideration in the near future. His conclusion recognizes the Christian spirit of M. Bergson's work, but is reluctantly moved to disallow the name to the philosophy on which it draws. Space forbids further account of the autumn contents of *Etudes Carmelitaines*, a publication of which no serious student of the philosophy of religion should be unaware.

T.G.

THE MASS EXPLAINED TO CHILDREN. By Dr. Maria Montessori. (Sheed & Ward; 4/-.)

The title of this book does not sufficiently indicate that it is meant rather for the teacher than for the use of the child. Those who, knowing and appreciating the educational method of the authoress, have looked forward with high hope to the publication of this work will not be disappointed. Step by step Dr.

Blackfriars

Montessori leads her reader through the stately ritual of Holy Mass, explaining the meaning and use of the sacred vessels and vestments; the content of the actions and prayers of the celebrant; and emphasising both the individual and the corporate participation of those privileged to assist at the Holy Sacrifice. The illustrations of the sacred vessels, etc., are clear and useful, though in practice mere drawings should not supersede the miniature altar sets, now happily familiar to every Catholic teacher.

Though fairly wide experience does not permit us to agree with Dr. Montessori's strictures on the 'zealous' teacher—since zeal does not necessarily exclude refinement and intelligence—yet we are entirely at one with her in her efforts to do away with the regimentation of religious practice in schools, and in her plea for a greater respect for the individuality of the child, above all in things of the spirit. We confidently recommend this book to all who are interested in the religious training of the young and in the instruction of converts. A.

THE WAY TO GOD: SHOWN BY MASTERS OF THE SPIRITUAL LIFE.

Selected and edited by Sir James Marchant, K.B.E. (Burns, Oates & Washbourne, 1932; 12/6.)

This book is a collection of passages from Catholic sources arranged under a few general headings. The passages are of respectable length, and not mere snippets, so that the book has a more satisfactory quality than the usual volume of extracts. The Editor has cast his net widely and not a few of his selections will suggest new pastures to the devout reader. But even when the pages chosen are familiar by long acquaintance, it is pleasant to have our old friends brought together in this family group. We would recommend the book especially to the busy worker, whether clerical or lay, who desires to have by him a volume to which he may turn in the intervals of occupation for refreshment and inspiration. J.M.

THE HIGHWAY OF THE CHURCH'S YEAR. By Fr. Thomas, O.S.B. (The Centenary Press; 3/6.)

This is an admirable book of outlined meditations, one for each day of the year. Some have merely routine ideas, but most are fresh and suggestive. The Anglican author has used throughout Catholic doctrinal teaching and traditional views. The book should be useful to those Anglicans who are anxious to learn more of their Christian fundamentals and to live them. B.J.