

subject-matter may be seen at a glance in the table of contents, supplemented by a chronological index of pontifical documents, pointing to principal and other documents in the body of the text, and to others quoted in footnotes or in the text, or merely referred to. The volume is also provided with very satisfactory canonical, scriptural, and analytical indexes.

We are presented here with all the most important Apostolic Constitutions, Encyclical Letters, Discourses, and Radio Messages, during the assigned period. The work will be no less useful to the laity than to those who have joined a religious body or a secular institute. The development of the teaching is indicated by sub-titles and short summaries, leading back to the sources.

The *Conditae a Christo* by Pope Leo XIII has had far-reaching effects, in giving status to religious congregations of simple vows, and controlling the foundation of new ones. The sub-title is not correct in limiting the legislation to diocesan congregations. There are two letters of St Pius X which are enlightening, on the primacy of religious life, and on Congregations of simple vows. The now celebrated *Provida Mater* of Pius XII on Secular Institutes adapts religious endeavour and the apostolic ministry to the needs of present-day society outside the cloister. The same pontiff in a *motu proprio* took an important step in inaugurating the Pontifical Institute *Regina Mundi* for the higher studies of religious women from all parts of the world. The collection appropriately ends with a Radio Message of Pope Pius XII to enclosed nuns, and a prayer of his Holiness for religious vocations.

The English version of the original texts is presented in readable style, which is a tribute to the translator.

AMBROSE FARRELL, O.P.

HERDER'S COMMENTARY ON THE PSALMS, ed. by Edmund Kalt; Newman Press, \$6.75 (about 51s.).

This commentary, which includes Cardinal Innitzer's preface of 1935, formed part of Herder's commentary on the whole Bible, published in German at that time. It presents the Douay text with devout, meditative paraphrase and comment. The fact that it was written over 25 years ago precludes reference to the new Latin Psalter, or to any more recent work on the Psalms, and it is a direct commentary on the old Latin Vulgate text. Slight reference is occasionally made to the original, but any discussion of its textual difficulties is expressly avoided: the commentary is not concerned with such questions: it sets out to be 'homiletical, ascetical and pastoral in approach'. It is a little difficult to see why it was chosen for translation and publication now, though it is an edifying book and handsomely produced in American style.

SEBASTIAN BULLOUGH, O.P.