

of the English Friars Minor, of which he was at one time Provincial, are some of the topics touched upon in this full-length and fully documented study. The publishers, who have already given us *Stonor* and *Vaux of Harrowden*, have once again had the courage to venture on a specialist book, with a dozen full-page illustrations, worthily produced, and at a reasonable price.

G.A.

PADRE PIO. By Malachy Gerard Carroll. (Mercier Press; 3s. 6d.)

As we apparently must have scores of books on stigmatics, it is at least desirable that they should be sane and free from superstitious extravagance. The present little volume on Padre Pio fully comes up to this requirement. For once the publishers' blurb is right; the author really does give 'a sane and balanced account' of his subject. Relying on unimpeachable authorities such as Father Thurston and Father Martindale, he deals with the various phenomena, stigmatization, the 'odour of sanctity' and bilocation, while also stressing Padre Pio's important work as a confessor, intent on bringing souls back to God. It is a pity, however, that an otherwise commendable book should be marred by an incredibly bad style; hence we could not help regretting that 'an event took place which was to be the beginning of the shouting of his name on the four winds of heaven', and that 'the limelight of pious enthusiasm should come on him', seeing it produced a book written in such English!

H.C.G.

THE LIFE AND MINISTRY OF JESUS. By Vincent Taylor, D.D. (Macmillan; 12s. 6d.)

THE MISSION AND ACHIEVEMENT OF JESUS. By Reginald H. Fuller. Studies in Biblical Theology No. 12. (S.C.M. Press; 8s.)

LIFE IN CHRIST. By Theo Preiss. Studies in Biblical Theology No. 13. (S.C.M. Press; 7s.)

Before the canonical Gospels, the written sources—two? three? four? And before the written sources, the oral tradition and the communities, Aramaic and Hellenistic—moulding? inventing? creating? And before the communities, the person, life and teaching of Jesus—recoverable? or an 'x' which must be presupposed but cannot be known? Dr Taylor and Mr Fuller are both opposed to the extreme development of Form Criticism. The former takes as the basis for his life of Jesus the Marcan outline, for Mark 'is a writing of first-rate historical importance', a conclusion dependent on the findings of his commentary on that Gospel. The present book is a sequel to *The Name of Jesus*, in which Dr Taylor deduced something of the developmen