

SEX ENLIGHTENMENT AND THE CATHOLIC. The Bellarmine Series, No. 10. By J. Leycester King, S.J. (Burns, Oates; 6s.).

Much has been written of late upon the necessity and technique of instructing children and adolescents in matters pertaining to sex. Health authorities, psychologists, social workers, educationalists and others have all contributed to the discussion. Unfortunately they have, generally speaking, taken only a partial view of the subject, regarding it exclusively from their own 'specialist' standpoint—that of hygiene, psychiatry, eugenics and so forth. Intentionally or otherwise, they have detached the subject from its necessary and fundamental context, which is that of morality and religion. The sex-life, it is true, is only a part of human life, but it must be treated as such, and related and subordinated to the interests and needs of the whole man—interests and needs of which morality and religion alone are competent to speak. Failure to allow for these paramount factors in the problem leads inevitably to an oversimplified or distorted statement of it and a solution which would prove inadequate and harmful if adopted in practice.

Nor is the matter one of purely academic interest, for theories and schemes of sex-instruction are already being tried out in schools and youth centres, while it is likely that under official inspiration and direction the same policy will prevail even more widely in the near future. Catholic parents, teachers, youth-workers and others having the care of the young need therefore to know what attitude they should adopt towards these measures and how far they are themselves, collectively or respectively, responsible for providing their charges with information, training and advice. For this reason Fr. Leycester King's book dealing with these aspects of the problem appears at a particularly opportune moment.

The author takes as his starting point the official teaching of the Church upon the subject, as expressed in the pronouncements of Popes, Roman Congregations and our own bishops in recent years. Having summarized the guidance given in these documents (which are set forth *in extenso* in appendices), the author goes on to consider the principles underlying the Church's attitude towards the sex-education of the young. This section might usefully have been developed at greater length. There follows a chapter dealing with the insufficiency and defects of solutions not based upon these principles in the practical solution of the problem. A final chapter contains some "hints for those called upon to advise, guide and help youth in this matter", which should prove useful. At the end there is a list of publications which may be consulted with advantage.

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SPIRITUALISM. By Herbert V. O'Neill, with a Preface by His Grace, the Archbishop of Liverpool. (Burns, Oates; 5s.).

Fr. O'Neill, who has read the records of Spiritualism over a period of thirty years and has been in personal contact with many eminent Spiritualists, sets out "to disabuse, disillusion, and en-