

REVIEWS

of Our Lord's Passion, our Redemption, and the living response these ask of us.

The doctrinal riches in St. Thomas must always be something of an embarrassment to those on whom it falls to make a selection. These meditations cover a wide range of his writings: besides the greater theological works, the Commentaries on Scripture, the *Summa Contra Gentiles*, various *opuscula* and *quodlibetales* are represented. But it would surely have been preferable to find substitutes for the four passages taken from the *De humanitate Christi*, a work now recognized as apocryphal. Happily, its doctrine is not alien to that of St. Thomas, as the unknown author based his work almost word for word on the Third Part of the *Summa*, and the *Commentary on the Fourth Book of the Sentences*, adding some opinions of the Fathers.

Father Hughes' translation is a pleasure to read; it combines a living force with faithfulness to the original. One passage has a freedom that is overmarked, where he translates "non differt . . . secundum essentiam, sed solum ratione" as "does not differ as though it had a different essence, but only according to the way these two things exist" (p. 44).

We hope the translator will give us many more meditations from St. Thomas: to go through the liturgical year with him is to be in good company indeed. PETER WHITESTONE, O.P.

MISCELLANEOUS

SCOUTING ACHIEVEMENTS. By Beresford Webb. (Putnam; 8/6.)

If there are any who still doubt the practical and even the moral value of the Scout Movement, this monumental volume should dispel those doubts effectively. The author has selected from the copious material available sufficient to provide a comprehensive view of the worldwide spread and universal activity of Scouting, and even to those of us who have been in touch with the movement from the beginning this makes astonishing reading. It is not a history of the birth and growth of Scouting; that has been written often enough. It is a bird's-eye view of *Scouting Achievements* in every department of social life, amongst almost all classes, creeds and nations. "Soon after the Scout Movement had started, B.P. was in conversation with King Edward VII and His Majesty suggested that Scouting should be copyrighted so as to preserve it for British boys. B.P.'s modest reply was that he could not imagine anyone else wanting the idea. To-day, the world total of Boy Scouts is getting near the three-million mark, and forty-nine countries, counting the British Empire as one country, have scouts of their own" (p. 3). (It is not without interest to note that the few countries without scouts are principally U.S.S.R., Germany, Italy and China.)

BLACKFRIARS

It is impossible to give any adequate idea of the *Achievements*; only a perusal of the book under review can do that, and it is packed with well-chosen examples on every page showing the eminently successful issue of the scouting experiment in slums, in Borstal institutions, in Leper Settlements, in times of national crisis, in wartime, in traffic control, in deep sea waters, on expeditions to the Pole, in unemployment areas, in charitable works, in public disasters, in the home circle and in a multitude of other equally diversified circumstances. But the important point is that the spirit and practice of Scouting, as this book amply proves, brings out the best in any type or condition of boy and, though it cannot be said to be in any sense a religious organization, provides opportunity and inducement for the practical exercise of religion at least so far as this latter is concerned with social contacts. Thus many of our own Parish Priests have had cause to bless the name of Baden Powell for providing them with an excellent and effective means of holding and perfecting the Catholic allegiance of their boys, especially during the difficult period of adolescence. Mr. Beresford Webb, though not, I think, himself a Catholic, is aware of these possibilities. He writes:

"Rover Scouts will naturally take a keen interest and activity in the various organizations attached to their particular creed or denomination. For instance, Catholic Rovers in Great Britain are intimately concerned with the charitable work of the St. Vincent de Paul Society, and various other guilds, fraternities and societies which are devoted to Catholic action. In France, the Rover Scouts de France, a Catholic organization, make a special study of the revival of liturgical practice, and they try to ensure in their own parishes that the full liturgy is carried out, as altar servers, sacristans and members of the choir. These Rovers, too, make a special job of pilgrimages, and they have organized very successful pilgrimages to Lourdes, the Holy Land and the Shrine of St. James at Compostella" (p. 207).

When it is added that the book is written in a pleasingly vigorous style, copiously illustrated with excellent photographs and offered by Messrs. Putnam in a format that is beyond criticism, enough will have been said, we hope, to prove that this is a volume well worth having and well worth reading.

HILARY J. CARPENTER, O.P.

SWASTIKA NIGHT. By Murray Constantine. (Gollancz; 7/6.)

This book is worth reading twice, first for a shocker and then for social philosophy.

In the seventh century of the Hitlerian Era the Nazi Empire divides the world with the Japanese; the stalemate of powers equally strong. The men of German Blood rule Europe and Africa and east to the Urals and Persia; the English have been crushed, the last rebels against this holy might. Not born of