

REVIEWS

THE TRIUMPHANT SPIRIT. A Study of Depression. By E. Graham Howe, M.B., B.S., D.P.B. (Faber; 8s. 6d.)

Recent years have seen the mushroom growth of a whole realm of popular, vaguely 'psychological,' literature which seeks to fulfil for modern man the deep need which in ages of faith is met by 'spiritual direction.' Inevitably such literature has frequently burst the boundaries of the purely 'psychological,' in the old narrow and allegedly 'scientific' sense, and has come to approximate increasingly (but with necessary modifications and adaptations) to the old spiritual direction which it had supplanted. Even though, to the believer, it must often appear an impoverished substitute, there is much in it which must be regarded as helpful and hopeful as a needed reploughing of the ground in which the seed of the Gospel might yet grow again.

Dr. Howe is perhaps better equipped than most as a contributor to this class of literature, and his book will be read by many with profit. But he has set himself a big task, 'no less than to diagnose and suggest the proper treatment for the sickness and folly of the world, as if it were my patient, and were visiting me in my consulting room.' But to do so he has inevitably been led to 'set out what I understand the living Truth to be, with special reference to the human job of living it,' and the result is unavoidably controversial at times. To a Catholic who is indeed 'living the Truth' (and Dr. Howe does well to remind us all that '*The Truth we know is very dangerous to us unless we live it*'), his formulation of it will often seem gravely inadequate and even muddled, and his illustrations and symbols somewhat lifeless and jejune. For all that, we cannot but welcome (in no patronising and priggish spirit) this kind of first-aid which he offers to modern man, humbly recognising our own too frequent failure to offer him anything effective at all; and we must spare the author the anticipated insult of giving him a 'pat on the back' for having rediscovered so much that we take for granted.

But when all allowance has been made for theological insufficiencies, a rather serious criticism of inadequacy on the purely psychological plane must still be made. Dr. Howe's 'Psychic Compass,' which forms the basic pattern of his diagnosis, his treatment and his book, is only half a compass, and may be seriously misleading. Adopting Jung's fundamental scheme of the 'four functions' (but with prolix descriptions, and valuations of them which perhaps Jung would hardly endorse), Dr. Howe surprisingly appears to treat Intuition and Feeling as exclusively introverted, Thinking and Sensation as exclusively extraverted. This position was in fact formally retracted by Jung so long ago as his *Psychological Types*, and its in-

adequacy has been abundantly proved in subsequent practice and investigation. It seems particularly misleading to offer so insufficient a 'compass' in a treatment of depression for popular consumption. But this book is the first of a series whose successors will appear in due course, and it may be hoped that Dr. Howe will have more to say on the subject.

VICTOR WHITE, O.P.

A HISTORY OF THE EXPANSION OF CHRISTIANITY. Vol. V. The Great Century in the Americas, Australasia and Africa. By K. S. Latourette. (Eyre and Spottiswoode; 25s.)

In the fifth volume of his monumental history Dr. Latourette tells the story of the nineteenth century mission work in America, Africa and Oceania. As is the case in the earlier volumes, Dr. Latourette astonishes the reader by the number of works he has consulted and by the skilful use he makes of the pertinent facts. His book is in fact unique and fills what has been for long a gap in Church History. Throughout the whole volume he displays his customary balance of judgement, and while he rarely draws conclusions or expresses opinions, those he does give are always illuminating. An example in point is his analysis of the 'passivity' of Catholic Christianity in Latin America during the nineteenth century—a passivity shown in its failure to produce an adequate 'native' clergy.

Large sections of the work are devoted to an accurate and sympathetic account of the history of Catholic Missions. A careful study of the facts presented in these sections shows that during the nineteenth century in spite of much heroic work, Catholic missions did not spread as rapidly as the missions of the Protestant bodies, nor did they show that adaptability and dynamism which was so characteristic of the missions of the Counter-Reformation. The causes of this relative failure have been touched on by Père Charles, but are still in need of authoritative treatment.

The standpoint of the work is historical. The bald facts are presented and allowed to speak for themselves, and they are so well arranged that they tell an inspiring story. Yet there are 'facts' more subtle and moving than details of arrivals, character sketches, descriptions of method and statistics. The agony and human failure on which the greatest triumphs of the Church are built are foundation stones given too little place in this work.

Again, though more space is devoted to the question than in earlier volumes, the problems of culture contact and missionary approach hardly receive enough attention. No doubt Dr. Latourette has set these issues on one side; yet they are raised on every page of his book, and emerge from the whole work as a problem which the historian of the Missions cannot refuse to face.

Far more important, however, the Catholic reader is struck by