

and should be local as well as universal. Catholics, though a minority, should be integral members of their own society, free from the exclusive, inferior-yet-superior attitude of the ghetto, yet always aware too that 'we have an everlasting city, but not here'.

Fr Couturier's aim is that of 'clarifying the theological principles and sociological laws which combine to govern missionary action'. He outlines (most concisely) the part which 'mission' plays in God's plan; then he considers in turn the first approach of the Church to a new territory, the changes which inevitably follow the interaction between Christian teaching and the local cultural traditions (particularly in morals, family life and social relations), and finally the growth of the local church to maturity. The author's concern is to expose the underlying principles; concrete problems in particular countries are mentioned only by way of example, and that sparingly. This is an austere and closely argued book, less interesting for the general reader than *The Church and the Nations*, but more fundamental and systematic in its approach.

A.G.

MISSIONARY SPIRITUALITY. By Bernard J. Kelly, c.s.sp. (M. H. Gill & Son Ltd, Dublin; 15s.)

There are many good things in this book. Although containing only 165 pages, it is packed tight with matter, being closely printed—too closely printed for comfort, I should say, for any but the young.

For this very reason, however, as well as for many others, such a book should have had an index. At this precise moment I should like to have recourse to the index. For I want to say that the book will be frightening in its intensity to any but a saint or a young missionary; for there seems to be no respite in this exceedingly arduous life. Yet the author did mention the words 'relax' and 'recreation' somewhere, but exactly where would take me a long time to find.

Nevertheless, intense as the book strikes me as being, and unrelieved by any illustrations or anecdotes, amusing or otherwise, it is full of good things, and should be read slowly. The missionary's objective is the conversion of the pagan, the salvation of souls, and the glory of God, which is consoling doctrine for those who do not seem to have been very successful in converting anybody. The missionary has to learn how to deal with all types: among the laity, the *rudes* of St Vincent de Paul, or among the young native seminarists, the bumptious one; though Fr Bernard Kelly would not use so crude a word as that. The aspiring missionary would do better to read papal encyclicals, especially that of Benedict XV (the index would have given the page, and I, then, the title) rather than magazine articles on the missions,

which so often record the unusual, or relate stories of experiences that occur perhaps once in a lifetime.

The author, as the result, no doubt, of his having spent years himself on the missions, is most satisfactorily broad-minded, albeit a stickler for law, the laws for the missions, and for obedience to the local bishop. What goodness, indeed, is sometimes to be found in the pagans themselves; and how wise the missionary will be not to expect perfection in his converts, while at the same time, like his great patron, St Paul, doing his utmost to keep them on the path of the ten commandments! How wise, too, not to be condemning outright, and without careful investigation, *all* pagan rites and dances! The missionary must also have a large heart and much sympathy for his people, who have no tradition of Christianity behind them, and not expect elderly neophytes to be able to get all the niceties of religion into their heads. In every mission field people will be found who are best described by the Latin word *rudes*.

The last chapter in the book, 'Made perfect in infirmity', is one of the best. Patience and charity have to be exercised with the young priest who arrives and soon begins to show that he thinks none of the missionaries have been doing any work, or at least not doing it in the right way. And humility and gratitude to God, when a fresh young missionary arrives who, with no self-complacency or even self-assurance, carries everything before him, and achieves what the older fathers have been trying in vain to accomplish.

The book is certainly very cheap at 15s., and the reader will readily admit he has got his full money's worth. Though the print is so close, the proof-readers must have done their work with great care, so that the one and only misprint I noticed, and that a tiny one, is on page 61, line 12 from foot of page, where for *through* read *thought*. And may we be spared any more words like methodology—but perhaps this reviewer is old-fashioned.

R. P. DEVAS, O.P.

WE AND OUR CHILDREN. By Mary Newland. (Darton, Longman and Todd; 16s.)

To bring up a family in a truly Christian atmosphere is not only a difficult process, but also often a lonely one, for the circumstances vary so much from generation to generation that new approaches are continually needed. Mrs Newland's book abounds in practical and modern advice to parents. She writes in a refreshingly cheerful style, but she is a sufficiently skilful authoress to be able to express deep spiritual truths with great clarity and dignity, and the result is a most rewarding book which every Catholic family ought to try to afford.