

text, while the text is itself being read like a book; rather than a commentary to be consulted for a particular difficulty. Or the commentary can be read by itself, when the text is sufficiently present in the memory of one who knows it well. In this, it is like Monsignore's translation, which is much more a book to be read than a quarry for quotations.

Yet we shall not be disappointed if we come to Monsignore with our difficulties; we shall usually find an answer, and often one that makes us think again.

SEBASTIAN BULLOUGH, O.P.

ST BERNARD ON THE CHRISTIAN YEAR. Translated and edited by A Religious of C.S.M.V. (Mowbray; 10s. 6d.)

Once again we have cause to be grateful to the religious of C.S.M.V. who has already given us *St Bernard on the Song of Songs* and *Lent with St Bernard*, for another 'bucketful from the same well', to quote her own words in the preface to the work under review. This 'well' is St Bernard's oral sermons, which were written down by others and revised by himself before being circulated.

The present selection is divided into two parts covering the Liturgical Year in Part One, and the Saints' Days in Part Two. The selections are well chosen so that the reader is given, in a pleasant translation, some of the best of St Bernard without having to plough his way through the long and often repetitive sermons of the Saint. We can enjoy, without danger of surfeit, some of those delightful metaphors and similes which seem to crowd one on top of the other in the unabridged sermons. The passage of the Bee, for instance, which flew to Nazareth 'and alighted on the Flower fragrant with perpetual maidenhood and settled there and stayed', or the passage in which, commenting on our Lady's compassion for the young couple's embarrassment in the Marriage of Cana, St Bernard says, 'if a man hold an apple for half a day, does not its fragrance stay with him the other half? How deeply, then, was she affected in her inward parts by Pity's power, in whom He rested for nine months!'

One cannot but regret that having been given readings for the Purification and for the Annunciation, we are given nothing for the great feast of the Assumption for which St Bernard provides plenty of material.

A. J. MEIKLE

THE ROSARY IN ACTION. By John S. Johnson. (Herder; 13s. 6d.)

It is not possible to read this book and then say the rosary just as you did before. Something happens. The rosary becomes more of a real piece of the spiritual life. I suppose this is because the book tells,