

work is of great importance for the history of heresy in the Middle Ages. The edition itself is praiseworthy, for the editors have made a brave attempt to produce something approaching the original text out of ten very tangled manuscripts. Here and there, however, a slip has been noticed: on p. 230 'CIII q. III' of the *Decretum* should be CXII q. III in both text and apparatus; the 'locus non repertus' of 'dicitur enim in legibus: vim vi repellere licet' is surely *Dig. vet. 9. 2, 46*.

LEONARD BOYLE, O.P.

THE MEANING OF LOVE. By Robert O. Johann, S.J. (Geoffrey Chapman; 16s.)

Father Johann, an American Jesuit, proposes, in this book, to give a correct metaphysical notion of love—something that he judges has not been previously done. He thinks that the key to a (philosophical) understanding of love lies 'in a synthesis of Thomist thought, as furnishing the metaphysical framework for a *philosophy* of intersubjectivity, with the insights of contemporaries into the *mystery* of intersubjectivity'. He addresses himself to his task with energy, vast erudition and a laudable effort at clear, non-technical expression. We are given seventy-one pages of text, forty-eight pages of references and notes and six pages of bibliography. The author has evidently mastered his material—ancient, medieval and modern—quite well. Granting him certain assumptions or philosophical interpretations, he has proved his point, or better, elucidated his synthesis.

However, for all the brilliance and depth of thought shown in the treatise, one wonders why it has been presented to the general reading public (if it is so presented). It would seem that only a reader who is well-versed in the content and terminology of both Aristotelian-Thomistic and modern metaphysics and who has a sound knowledge of Latin and French (not to mention Greek) would make much of the central thesis as explained. One has the impression that this is a well-wrought doctoral dissertation that somehow has strayed from the university archives into print and on to the shelves of booksellers.

The trained philosopher and/or theologian will perhaps find in this book some new light on the subject of love or at least a lucid re-examination of the traditional doctrine. But the general reader, in spite of the best efforts of Father Johann, will find it very heavy going, if, indeed, he has not foundered before he has finished the Introduction.

PETER CURRAN, O.P.

PETER'S BOAT. By Daphne D. C. Pochin Mould. (Clonmore and Reynolds; 12s. 6d.)

This book bears the sub-title, 'A Convert's Experience of Catholic Living'. It is all that—and something more. Since the author has lived