

the author finds in order the better to explain the workings of Grace. One fails to see why Father Mageean should feel himself obliged to excuse himself for beginning his work with a few introductory remarks on love in general. Surely to speak of the love of God to someone who had no experience of human love would be impossible! Nevertheless the author does not see fit to set forth this argument, proposing others which seem secondary to it. No doubt for one who desires a straightforward treatise on the love of God there are other more academic works which will render better service, but for the support of prayer this little work will be found useful. It assembles a great variety of ideas and some interesting quotations.

The first half of Father Lyons' book sets forth Christian teaching on the Holy Ghost, the Gifts, the Infused Virtues, the indwelling of the Holy Ghost, etc. It is excellent and calls upon Holy Scripture and other sources. The language is simple but the thought probes deep and the book should be most useful for any priest having for ministry the introduction of layfolk to the things of the spirit. 'Temples of the Holy Ghost' is a chapter particularly to be commended. The second half of the book contains prayers to the Holy Spirit culled from a wide variety of sources, meditations for four novenas to the Holy Ghost and a number of similar exercises. These will be useful to the priest who is frequently called upon to provide talks and recollections, often enough to the same audience. He will find much to set his thoughts in motion. Both these books contain constant reference to the sources of Christian doctrine and piety both in Scripture, Papal pronouncements and in citations from the Fathers and Theologians.

RICHARD BLUNDELL, S.J.

ST ANTHONY: THE MAN WHO FOUND HIMSELF. By Norman Painting and Michael Day, CONG. ORAT. (Burns and Oates; 12s. 6d.)

The claim made on the inside of the dust-cover that this book is 'strictly accurate in all its details' is misleading. A much more correct idea of its nature is given in the 'Authors' Note' at the very end, where we read, 'The story of St Anthony is a true story. It is based principally on the writings of the saint's contemporaries. Ruggiero and Helena, Gratiano and Elias, Ugolino and Ezzelino, for example, are all historic characters, but we have used the liberty accorded to story-tellers in our attempt to bring them back to life.' Some of us do not like our history mixed up with fictitious conversations, but that there are many who do like this type of writing is shown by the increasing vogue which it has enjoyed during the last few years. The authors certainly succeed in making the story come alive, and thus will reach a much wider public than they would do if they kept strictly to the facts. The aim

they have set themselves is a difficult one. The few works of this kind which we have read all seem to suffer from an excess of emotion and melodrama. Do men really sob so easily as they do in this book, e.g. on pp. 117, 129? However, we must not be too exacting; the book will, we are sure, do a lot of good by introducing a great and lovable saint to people who would be repelled by a heavier tome.

FR SEBASTIAN, O.F.M.CAP.

WELLSPRINGS OF THE FAITH. By The Most Reverend John C. McQuaid, Archbishop of Dublin. (Clonmore and Reynolds; 18s.)

This collection of Pastorals, discourses, addresses, covers so wide a field that it is impossible, as the Editor remarks in the preface, to summarize the doctrines considered. But a convenient division into Basic Christian Truths, The Great Means of Grace, The Last Things, Our Blessed Mother, and Educational Subjects will at least indicate the range. Every section is a refresher course in Christian Doctrine, good reading for young priests (and older ones) who act on the principle that sound doctrine is the best food for meditation and for sermons. If one must choose among such a galaxy of scholarly instructions, the long chapter on Catholic Education, its Function and Scope (pp. 187-206) is particularly interesting and contains memorable phrases worth pondering. From another point of view the chapter on sorrow for sin (pp. 111-122) will probably touch more hearts and directly influence more readers. The book is excellently produced and the marginal indications of the subject matter of each section make for easy reference.

G. M. CORR, O.S.M.

APPARITIONS. By Louis Lochet. (Desclée de Brouwer; 5 fr.b.)

This is one of the series 'Présence Chrétienne' and is fittingly subtitled on the cover 'Présence de Marie à notre temps'. The purpose of the book is to relate the authenticated and approved apparitions of our Lady to the religious history of mankind, to our understanding of our Blessed Lady, to our own modern spiritual life, to the history of the Church, to the design of God in all history: a typically French presentation, a glorified essay, and very well done. Its value may best be indicated by saying that it is a necessary background book for anyone writing on 'The Meaning' of any of the great shrines of our Lady. It will, or should, be read by many writers this coming year who will be expressing their thoughts on the meaning of Lourdes. Apart from the fact that the general principles which unify the meanings of all the appearances of our Lady are the main theme of the book, special attention is given to Lourdes. The author tries to describe Lourdes, which is impossible, but those who know it already will recognize it.