

NOTICES

Mgr Fulton Sheen needs no introduction either in America or in England. He has preached and written for nearly a quarter of a century with great effect. He began with learned theological and philosophical works, became more popular in approach and now returns with four hundred closely reasoned pages to the learned treatment of reason and religion in *Philosophy of Religion* (Longmans, Browne & Nolan; 25s.). Into this book he has poured all his wide reading and lengthy meditation so that the reader will find many modern philosophies marshalled in array as well as St Thomas's proofs for the existence of God. In the end of the book Mgr Sheen considers man, modern frustrated man, as a preparatory study that will lead to a return to metaphysics. The main criticism of the book is that it follows the inevitable sequence—modern thought has led to irrationalism, the need for a metaphysic founded on Aquinas, modern sciences in relation to this approach, and man with his need for metaphysics and God. But for those who look for a clear display of 'false assumptions' in philosophies and sciences today this will be a useful book.

THE PASSION FOR EVER is a title chosen by Fr Lord, S.J., the well-known United States preacher and writer, for a small book which might equally have been called 'The Passion Now' (Clonmore & Reynolds; 5s. 6d.). Vivid meditations on the scenes of the Passion are combined, by the art of the missionary, with the placing of the hearer or reader on the stage with the chief characters in the drama. The theme, well-balanced with the descriptive narrative, is that each individual has his role to play on this stage and in this drama. And the Passion is, perhaps, brought more vividly to some people by Dr Pierre Barbet's analysis of the Holy Shroud at Turin—THE FIVE WOUNDS OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST (Clonmore & Reynolds; 3s.). This Parisian surgeon believes in the authenticity of the shroud and discusses the evidence in somewhat technical terms. Photographs of the Shroud itself would have assisted the reader to judge his conclusions.

Father John P. Jordan, C.S.SP., publishes two small books with Clonmore & Reynolds. It will be remembered that he is the author of the exciting biography of Bishop Shanahan of Southern Nigeria, and in these books he continues his description of personalities. The first is of Blessed Martin—DARK MAN OF GOD (4s.)—the second of the personalities of Fatima and nine saints—THE STORY OF FATIMA AND SOME SAINTS (4s.)—both main topics are by now well-known themes; indeed, Fatima and Blessed Martin seem to provide plenty of thrills in the modern drama of the Christian.