

an unfortunate statement which could be corrected by the insertion of 'just' after 'not'. 'Spiritual vacuum' for original sin is also easier for the theologian to interpret than for a catechumen to understand.

Explaining the function of a godparent, the author omits to mention that it is sufficient for validity if the child is received from the font, or from the minister by the godparent.

These and a few other similar inaccuracies could easily be remedied in future editions. It is almost ungracious to mention them, but a book of this sort is bound to influence thousands of people, and to bring it to perfection, or as near as possible, would be worth any amount of trouble.

Perhaps the most effective quality of this book is the deep spirituality of the author which breathes through its pages whenever he speaks of holy things.

GERARD M. CORR, O.S.M.

HUMAN CULTURE AND THE HOLY. By Jaroslav Pelikan. (S.C.M. Press; 15s.)

Perhaps the most interesting theological work now being produced in America is of the radically protestant kind less familiar in this country. Dr Pelikan's fine book is an example. It is a sustained declaration of the transcendence of the God who cannot be enclosed in any system, who is not an object made of truth, goodness or beauty, not something to be circumscribed and understood, but holy. In six successive studies of thinkers and artists Dr Pelikan presents in turn the negative and positive sides of his thesis; religion is not knowing a system of dogma any more than it is obeying a system of moral law, yet truth and goodness are given to man by God in Christ. This is not the place to summarize the close-packed thought, nor to try and show what is false or exaggerated from a Catholic point of view. The book should be read because it makes us consider again how we stand in relation to the gospel; and this is always good.

LAURENCE BRIGHT, O.P.