

queries of the man-in-the-street. What is harder—and more valuable—is to go behind the question, often pitifully inadequate to express a real difficulty, and to understand its presuppositions. It is here that Dr Arendzen is most helpful, and anyone who is engaged in Evidence Guild speaking, or indeed who is merely anxious to clear his own muddle of mind, will find in *Platform Replies* a charitable and discerning guide to many modern misconceptions about the Catholic Faith and will find too a brief but effective means for their resolution.

I.E.

THE AKATHISTOS HYMN. Translated by Fr Vincent McNabb, O.P.

With Notes by Donald Attwater. (Blackfriars Publications; 3s. 6d.)

OUR MOTHER CHURCH, HER WORSHIP AND OFFICES. C. Svegintzev. (S.P.C.K.; 3s. 6d.)

In recent years, with the full and solemn encouragement of the Holy See, there has been a notable increase in the interest shown in the Eastern Churches and their rites and traditions. Knowledge of these can only result in the deepening of our appreciation of the richness and splendour of the Faith. The Akathistos Hymn is one of the best known forms of prayer used in the Byzantine Rite, being composed in honour of the Mother of God and commemorating the great events of her life. The translation into the English language of liturgical texts composed by an exuberant people is notoriously difficult, while the requirements of modern devotion are more exacting than those of our forefathers. Consequently Fr McNabb's translation, while of great use to 'Ecclesia discens' in showing those whose Greek is pedestrian the images, concepts and formulas used by the Byzantines in worship, will hardly commend itself to 'Ecclesia Orans' in spite of the attractive way in which it has been bound and printed. It is too literal and in consequence upsets our recollection. The notes by Donald Attwater are both interesting and informative.

C. Svegintzev's book will be extremely useful to all those interested in the Byzantine Rite. It gives a description of the church and its furniture, and goes through all the ceremonies, the Eucharistic Liturgy, Baptism, funerals, Holy Week, etc., in detail without confusing the reader in the way that handbooks of ceremonial usually do.

RICHARD BLUNDELL, S.J.

ANNE DE ROUSIER. Translated from the French by L. Keppel. (Sands; 4s.)

This unusual life of a nun begins with a murder. Anne de Rousier was only eight years old then. In due time she became a nun of the Society of the Sacred Heart. She saw the early days of the Revolution in Italy when her community had to be dispersed from their convent at Turin. Travelling was difficult and dangerous, and cross-