

and that his philosophy is as balanced a form of Christian philosophy as can be found. One may hope that this reprint of an early work may lead to a better appreciation of its value.

BEDE GRIFFITHS, O.S.B.

THE HEART OF THE WORLD. By Dom Aelred Watkin. (Burns Oates; 7s. 6d.)

Although the author states that this book is not intended for professional theologians and controversialists, it is nevertheless a serious study of Christian doctrine, which re-presents theological teaching in a personal and original way while generally avoiding technical language.

Less directly concerned than is suggested by the publisher's blurb with devotion to the Sacred Heart, Dom Aelred's study is centred on the doctrines of the Trinity, the Incarnation and the Mystical Body, on all of which devotion to the Sacred Heart so closely depends.

The first section, which one would have liked to be further developed, is on 'The human heart and the Trinity', the heart being understood in the sense of 'that ultimate expression and experience of personality in knowing and loving'. Our Lord's mediation is specially emphasized: 'apart from Christ even the very centre of our hearts, where we are at our very best and highest, is cut off from knowing God'. This Christocentric emphasis is characteristic of the book: the growth of Eternal Life is seen as an all-round development in Christ through the sacraments, through suffering, through loving others, through the Liturgy and private prayer, which are all harmonious elements in our Christian re-formation.

The last section on 'the Law and the Heart' is the most developed one. The warfare of the Christian is ultimately one between selfishness and charity. Suffering and self-sacrifice are both the price and the means of the union between our hearts and the Heart of Christ. In these pages especially Dom Aelred is both personal and practical; and if he would be the last to claim that he has a new message, his fresh approach to and his union of various elements of the Christian life, which are sometimes too isolated from each other, help to make his book an ideal present for all religious, and for many thoughtful layfolk.

HUGH FARMER, O.S.B.

THE SPIRITUAL LETTERS OF DOM JOHN CHAPMAN. Edited by Dom E.R. Second Edition. (Sheed and Ward; 12s. 6d.)

For the fervent advocate of Dom John Chapman's spiritual doctrine there is in this highly personal work a well of abundant water. Here he is at his best and for those who knew him in life or have read his works there will be a new point of contact in this very natural exposé of his thought.