

which evidently for the most part he makes his own. Yet he too readily cites a variety of Liberal writers, with whom in fact he disagrees, rather than decides a question himself. He quotes, for instance, Dr Burkitt, who denies that John 1, 1, introduces any distinction in the Godhead and holds it to be strictly parallel to Gen. 1, 26, where 'the one only God produces the creation by consulting himself'. Mr Lee does not share this opinion; but is it of such weight that he need mention it?

Hardly enough is made of the institutional element in St John, which, as von Hügel is quoted as saying, underlies the entire work. The Christian community and the two great sacraments are not neglected, any more than Christ's promise of the Paraclete; but there seems to be no discussion of John 20, 23, of the sacramental forgiveness of sins, of Confirmation, or of the pastoral charge to St Peter. The Parousia is simply identified with the coming of the Paraclete, while Christ's second coming at the End is merely the 'crude eschatology' of earlier Christian preaching. The author has a few other surprising opinions; yet on the whole he has written a work in which well-instructed Catholics could find profit. As vicar of an industrial parish he has also set an example of persevering study and literary creation which many priests might take to heart.

JOHN HIGGINS, O.S.B.

DOES GOD MATTER FOR ME? By C. C. Martindale, S.J. (Rich and Cowan; 6s.)

It would be as impertinent to review Father Martindale as it would be otiose to welcome him, but even a reprint of his work cannot go ungreeted. In 1951 English readers are perhaps more interested in systematic theology than they were in 1937 when this book first appeared. The theology however must be intelligible and bear some relationship to the ordinary things of everyday life. In a tightly packed little book Father Martindale shows what the *fact* of God means for man. When he has outlined his theological principles he fills in the outlines, not only with snippets from Mrs Humphrey Ward, but with his own experiences in an aeroplane or in New Zealand—the picture is not only coloured: it is 'a movie'. Few theological writers can fascinate like Father Martindale.

A.R.

THE LITTLE BOOK OF THE CONTEMPLATION OF CHRIST. Newly translated by a Religious of C.S.M.V. (Mowbray; 4s. 6d.)

This classic was originally attributed to St Augustine, but was in fact a work of the thirteenth or fourteenth century, derived from the *Confessio Theologica* of John of Fécamp (†1078). But whoever the