

These slight flaws notwithstanding, we have no hesitation in welcoming this painstaking and scholarly addition to Franciscan lore in English.

ETHELBERT CARDIFF, O.F.M.

AN OLD APOSTLE SPEAKS. By Vincent McNabb, O.P., with a Memoir by Fr Gerald Vann, O.P. (Blackfriars Publications; 1s. 6d.)

Those who knew and loved Fr Vincent will be glad to have the opportunity of sharing in these excerpts from his sermons and retreats. They will read them not only for the deep and simple truths, which were the *medulla* of Fr Vincent's life as an Apostle of Truth, but their memories will clothe them with the living voice and expression, which so often opened up unspoken visions beyond. More than anyone else one was always clearly aware that the Scriptures and the *Summa* were the sources of his life and thought. He applied the spirit of poverty all round, even in his choice of words and hence achieved on many occasions the chastened economy of the inspired word. And this arose not from any straining after literary form but from his own ascetic practice and self-discipline, so well illustrated in a family retreat: 'One very good mortification is *always* to get at the real truth—to search for it at great pains and having got it, preach it and see what happens'. That was not merely advice to his fellow-Dominicans: it was his own life-long rule—his work, as he loved to call it.

After truth comes love, and Fr Vincent's dying words: 'I have no enemies' did sum up his life, which he had spent in loving all men. Not only did he love the physically poor, but even more, the spiritually poor. 'Outside in the world there is a poor man at the door, and he doesn't know he is poor. Let us pity him, and let us ask pardon for any sin of ours that has made it more difficult for him to know he is poor and still outside the door of the great Gift of Faith which God is waiting to offer to his mind and heart'. We are grateful to Fr Vann for having stressed this all-embracing love and that mainly from quotations from Fr Vincent's own words. How necessary today are the mind and heart of an Old Apostle for a starving and spiritually sick world!

P. J. FLOOD

THE SORROW OF GOD. By Gerald Vann, O.P. (Aquinas Papers No. 7, Blackfriars, Oxford; 1s.)

When any question is asked about the possibility of sorrow or suffering in God, the professional theologians are content to reply with a rather frosty, 'God is impassible'. Fr Vann, with his uncanny instinct for the problems that most afflict the contemporary mind, has decided to explore this dark and difficult matter. To our knowledge it is pioneer work for one who accepts the principles of the *philosophia perennis*, and perhaps more remains to be said.

The key to Fr Vann's treatment is the love of God. Love implies sympathy, the will-to-share, pity. As St Thomas says in a quite different context, *misericordia*, pity, is first cousin to charity, or even