

apprehensions of the world, than I when I was a child' we are reminded that Freud has confirmed St Augustine's grimmer view of infancy. It would be a pity never to read Traherne, but there were far finer writers and far more mature Christians in his time, and it is to them that we must turn (particularly to Vaughan and Herbert) to find testimonies that are *inspiring* as well as beautiful. Traherne's cult of infancy can be no inspiration for us now.

F.K.

NOTICES

REDEMPTION THROUGH THE BLOOD OF JESUS. By Gaspar Lefebvre. O.S.B. (Newman Press, Maryland; xiv+233 pages; \$4.00.) According to the translator's preface, this book is 'evidently intended to be devotional rather than speculative in character', but at the same time it 'does present a rather complete theological view'. Unfortunately the author (and his translator) have not succeeded in freeing themselves from the technical terms and latinized vocabulary which make scholastic theology so unapproachable for the ordinary reader: so we have chapters entitled *The Material and Formal Objects of Devotion to the Precious Blood* and *God the First Efficient Cause of Our Redemption*. There are some very good things in this book—the author, who edited *The St Andrew Daily Missal*, is well versed in the Bible, the liturgy and the Fathers—but they might have been presented in a much more acceptable way.

PROBLEMS IN THEOLOGY, vol. 2 (The Commandments). By John Canon McCarthy. (Browne and Nolan, xiii+588 pages, 40s.) A classified collection of questions and answers about cases of conscience, from *The Irish Ecclesiastical Record*.

Father Gerald Vann, O.P., has revised his very successful book *Morals Makyth Man*, which now appears as a paper-back entitled *MORALS AND MAN* (Fontana Books, 223 pages, 2s. 6d.). Like St Thomas, Father Gerald sees the moral life as comprising the whole movement of man's return to God. The first part of the book is concerned with the principles of moral action, the second with their application in social and political life. This cheap edition would make an excellent text for discussion in sixth forms and adult study-groups.

MORALS FOR LAY PEOPLE, by Silvester Birngruber (Scepter, 478 pages, 26s.), is more restricted in its scope, as the foreword indicates: 'Moral theology . . . is principally occupied with the determination of what is sinful'. Most of the book is devoted to this rather negative task of distinguishing what is sinful from what is not, clearly and in some detail,

so that it is not until page 477 that the author can write: 'You have reached, dear reader, the end of this book. Perhaps at times you were tempted to lay it aside completely. Perhaps you often groaned under the weight of precepts rained down on you like stones. . . .'

F. W. Faber's *GROWTH IN HOLINESS* has been republished in the handsome format of the *Orchard* series (Burns Oates, xix+372 pages, 18s.). Ronald Chapman, in a perceptive introductory essay, is careful not to overstate the case for Faber: 'If his books are read carefully a structure of hard common-sense and well-mastered theology is seen below even his most saccharine effusions. He also had a masterly understanding of the human heart.' This is the most practical of Faber's books, and is relatively free from purple passages.

HOW THE CATHOLIC CHURCH IS GOVERNED. By Heinrich Scharp (Herder-Nelson, 168 pages, 12s. 6d.). A clear descriptive account of the administrative system of the Church, by a journalist who has spent many years in Rome.

Another valuable addition to the *Fontana* series is *MIRACLES*, by C. S. Lewis (190 pages, 2s. 6d.), which has a wider range than its title suggests; it is a lively and forceful apologetic directed to those who hold that 'nature' is the ultimate reality.

THE MYSTICAL BODY AND ITS HEAD, by R. H. Benson (an extract from his *Christ in the Church*), and *A HANDBOOK OF HERESIES*, by M. L. Cozens (abridged from the book of that title), have recently appeared in the *Canterbury* series (Sheed and Ward, 96 pages, 3s. 6d. each).

We would remind readers that Sunday July 10th has been appointed by the hierarchy as a day of prayer for the canonization of the English and Welsh martyrs. The publication is announced of an illustrated pamphlet of 20 pages, entitled *Forty Martyrs*, price 6d., obtainable from the Office of the Vice-Postulation, 31 Farm Street, London W.1.

We hope ourselves to print a series of sketches of some of these martyrs in subsequent numbers of *THE LIFE OF THE SPIRIT*.