

*Love*, was published in five languages. This one is a joy to read, and it should prove a gift to anyone who is trying to bring home to lay-folk the reality of their call to holiness and the possibility of its achievement by means of the ups and downs of their ordinary daily life.

Each chapter is complete in itself and one is hard put to choose between them: silence, prudence, the cross, hope, group action as a help to holiness. Each topic is treated with a lightness of touch which makes for easy reading, yet it is the *sana doctrina* of St Thomas and the mystics which is so pleasantly put across in terms of the relationships and experiences of every-day living.

The final chapter on daily heroism looks at St Thérèse of Lisieux as 'a heroine to make heroism possible without making it less heroic, to make sanctity imitable without causing it to be less holy, to make the love of God attractive by stripping it of all extraneous dramatics and showing it as it is in itself' (p. 87). In an age in which it requires heroism to live an ordinary Christian life, she shows the tremendous power of love 'even if it is love hidden in great desire and revealed only in little things' (p. 96).

But is this the *first* age to demand such heroism? Perhaps Dorothy Dohen does not know about England in the penal times.

S. M. ALBERT, O.P.

VOCATION TO LOVE. By Dorothy Dohen. (Sheed and Ward; 10s. 6d.)

The lively review *Integrity* was both a product and an instrument of the lay apostolate movement in America. A zealous and radically Christian outlook, good editing and layout, and a touch of satire at the expense of the world, the flesh and the devil, all helped to make an unusual and valuable Catholic review. Dorothy Dohen was one of its regular contributors from the beginning, and its editor for several years—a task which must surely have required faith and courage, as well as editorial ability.

This book consists of articles which originally appeared in *Integrity*. They deal with various topics; how a Christian should face a practical problem (poverty, loneliness, frustration) or live up to a difficult ideal (detachment, joy, peace). Miss Dohen does not underestimate the difficulties, but neither does she minimize the obligations of the Christian. She assumes we know that we are all called to be saints, and that nothing less will satisfy us. One theme keeps recurring throughout: that love (or charity—both words are much misused) is the fundamental basis of the Christian life. Miss Dohen's clear vision of this principle gives her book a unity seldom found in a collection of articles.

The metamorphosis into book form is not altogether gain: anyone who read these articles in the original context will miss the satirical

verses and cartoons of *Integrity*. On the other hand, Miss Dohen's own achievement is now clearer than ever. She writes with the vigour and economy of good journalism, but what she has to say is of lasting value. These articles, written particularly for those engaged in the lay apostolate, deserve to reach a larger public in this country. It is good to have them in a permanent form in this well-produced little book.

A.G.

MINIATURE LIVES OF THE SAINTS, compiled by Rev. H. S. Bowden.

Edited and revised by Donald Attwater. (Burns and Oates; 18s.)

Originally issued as separate leaflets for the use of the brothers of the Little Oratory, these miniature lives were gathered together and published in two volumes in 1877 by Henry Sebastian Bowden, who himself had compiled many of the biographies. In his preface he referred to an imposing group of assistants including Cardinals Manning and Newman, the great spiritual writer Bishop Hedley, o.s.B., the noted historian Fr T. E. Bridgett, c.ss.r., Fr Bertrand Wilberforce, o.p., and Mother Francis Raphael Drane. To these names can now be deservedly added that of the new editor, Mr Donald Attwater, already celebrated as the editor twice over of Butler's *Lives*; for he has added to the original work short biographies of more modern saints including Cardinal John Fisher, Thomas More, John Vianney, John Bosco, Teresa of the Infant Jesus and Pius X.

With a biography for each day of the year, daily quotations from some great saint and doctor, and short spiritual instructions the volume provides an excellent exercise in spiritual reading for many who love God but have not the leisure to read as much as they would like about him, his holy Mother and his saints.

W.G.

THE MODERNITY OF ST AUGUSTINE. By Jean Guitton. Translated by A. V. Littledale. (Geoffrey Chapman; 7s. 6d.)

This slight volume (eighty-eight pages) contains the author's thoughts on the relevance of St Augustine in our day, which were first presented in Paris and Geneva upon the occasion of St Augustine's sixteenth centenary. He compares St Augustine with some of the great thinkers of our age, and shows how they differ or are similar, and the way in which their thought might often have been deepened and perfected—not changed necessarily—had they had a greater share in or sympathy with his vision, a vision attained largely in experience. The author has a slight tendency to ask the sort of question: 'What would Augustine's answer have been if he had been placed in such-and-such circumstances?'—a technique which always tends to have a