

but the messages of both Lourdes and Fatima are substantially identical: O my children return, return to my Son.

But *Sursum Corda* (Waverley, New South Wales) for February gives us another approach to our Lady in Fr Ambrose Ryan's 'Austrian Devotion to Mary'. This article is the first of a series and so he begins with the arrival of Captain Pedro Fernandez de Quiros off the New Hebrides in 1606. On Whitsunday

the crews disembarked accompanied by a group of Franciscan Friars and Brothers of St John of God, missionaries for the conversion of the natives. The first action of the Catholic Spaniards was to erect a fort on the shore, within which 'a clean and well-ordered altar was erected'. This was the first church, and was named by the Captain 'Our Lady of Loreto'.

From this 'church' a proclamation was read claiming the new lands in the name of our Lord and the Church and the Catholic King of Spain. But the mixture of the conversion of the infidel with empire building has always produced a dubious paste. This typical piece of history recalls Italy's Abyssinian campaign during which picture postcards were circulated showing our Lady floating in the clouds above the Italian tanks going into action. The empire building of fervent Catholics presents a problem which has no easy solution, but we hope that our Lady will not be often associated with the use of force, since she is now more than ever before the Queen of Peace.



## REVIEWS

OUR LADY OF LOURDES. By Rt Rev. Mgr Joseph Deery. (Browne and Nolan Ltd, Dublin; 18s.)

The number one hundred has a peculiar fascination—whether it be the number of runs scored on the cricket field or the number of years of life of a person or an institution. Cricketers have various ways of proceeding when they reach their century. Some think the time has come when they should now begin to hit out indiscriminately at every ball. Others think that the time has come for a fresh guard to be taken and a new start on the road to a second hundred begun. When the centenary of the foundation of any sort of institution, a school, a club, a parish church, is reached, it might be felt that the time has come for the institution to close down because it has outlived its usefulness. On the other hand, it might be regarded as the time for making a fresh

start and re-stating its original aims and ideals. This year the centenary of the Apparitions of our Lady at Lourdes has been reached and is being celebrated all over the world. Many books have appeared on the subject, and the one under review is one which will do much to forward the second of the alternative attitudes that have been suggested above.

Mgr Deery in writing this book intended it primarily for those who will be unable to visit the famous shrine, although pilgrims themselves will find it very useful, and much more readable than most guide-books, to take with them and to read again and again on their return.

Having visited the shrine every year for the past thirty years, the author has caught the spirit of Lourdes and brings it out clearly in the book. In giving us a brief history of the town of Lourdes and the surrounding countryside he prepares us admirably for what is to follow. He tells again the story—and it cannot be told too often—of Bernadette, of her family and childhood, of the apparitions, of her later life and sufferings, and puts them all into their proper perspective: Bernadette 'was not canonized because she was favoured with the apparitions of the Blessed Virgin, nor even because she participated actively in the foundation of the vast power-house which Lourdes has become. The reason for her canonization was that she had lived a life of heroic sanctity, based on the instruction and example she had received at Massabielle' (p. 65).

In this one book the author treats of all the many aspects there are of Lourdes: he gives interesting accounts of the buildings at Lourdes, including the new Church of S. Pius X which is to be opened at Easter, of the work for the sick and the organization of the Medical Bureau and International Medical Organization; he gives us details of some of the many miraculous cures obtained at the shrine; and he outlines the development of the ceremonies as they have grown up in answer to our Lady's request that the faithful should come in procession. In a final section, 'The Significance of Lourdes'—which is specially noted by the Archbishop of Dublin in his foreword—the message of Lourdes is concisely and simply put before us; 'the necessity for penitential prayer is, accordingly, the essence of the message of Lourdes' (p. 248).

It is fortunate that the distressing dust-cover is removable from this excellent book.

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THE LIVING GOD AND THE ROSARY OF OUR LADY. By Romano Guardini. (Longmans; 9s. 6d.)

The addresses contained in *The Living God* 'were not written in the study but arose from the depth and joy of that relationship which