

but that is the drift and it is interesting to see how variously he says it. It is applicable, after all, to more occasions than weddings. He is not sentimental. He both appreciates human love and helps his audiences of two to see how much more lovely is the love of God.

THE INSIGHT OF THE CURÉ D'ARS. By the Abbé Francis Trochu. (Burns and Oates; 9s. 6d.)

The word 'insight' here means more than the power of seeing between the lines, of inspired guessing, of clairvoyance. It is light from heaven, one of the proofs of the Curé's sanctity. There are fifty examples, in the form of true stories, of his supernatural knowledge of what was going on in other people's minds and hearts and souls, and some of the facts relate to past and future events which he could not have known by natural means. Told in simple, rather Victorian English (a translation of course), they retain the atmosphere of the time. But this is a time-defying book of charming true stories about wonderful but homely incidents. It is calculated to help any sincere soul but perhaps especially those who are tempted to intellectual pride. G. M. CORR, O.S.M.

INSIDE THE ARK AND OTHER STORIES. By Caryll Houselander. (Sheed and Ward; 8s. 6d.)

This is a book of what might be called 'holy fairy-tales'. They all belong to the wishes-come-true category, but the power is not that of magic and fairies, but of grace and the angels. A delightful book for the Catholic child of seven to nine years old, for without having the flavour of the 'moral tale for the young', each story makes some very valuable point. Each is told with gaiety and humour, and yet with an acceptance of supernatural intervention which is child-like in its perfect simplicity.

ROSEMARY HEDDON

COMPLINE ACCORDING TO THE DOMINICAN RITE IN LATIN AND ENGLISH. (Blackfriars; 5s.)

Those who have the good fortune to be able to attend Compline in Dominican churches will welcome the re-publication of this book, whilst others may welcome, for private use, this complete text of the changing psalms and hymns of the Church's official night-prayers. The print is clear and pleasant to read, with the Latin text on one page, and the English translation facing it.

ROSEMARY HEDDON

THE MAKING OF CHURCH VESTMENTS. By Graham Jenkins. (Challoner; 4s. 6d.)

At first sight it would seem almost impossible that within the thirty-two pages of this small book so much could be compressed. But the author has found space to give not only clear, concise, and eminently practical instructions on the making of simple vestments,

but also to provide a short account of their historical development. There are some helpful diagrams, and several excellent photographs illustrating the text.

Even those whose knowledge of sewing is comparatively slight should feel encouraged by this book to attempt to make something for their church, whilst those who wish to go more deeply into the subject will find a considerable bibliography appended, though it is unfortunate that so many of the books listed are out of print.

ROSEMARY HEDDON

GOSPEL MEDITATIONS. By Alfred O'Rahilly. (Browne and Nolan; 18s.)

This book is only worth reviewing here because of its foreword. This is quoted extensively on the dust-jacket, and in such a place it could well be a snare, as it is certainly a delusion, though by no less a person than Father Martin D'Arcy. The great scholarship of the author is emphasized, the high quality of his studies in this field are pointed out, he is compared to Lagrange and Guardini. His historical and exegetical scholarship, we are told, makes the Gospel text speak to us. These qualities I would not deny to Professor O'Rahilly, but they do not appear in this book. In the author's own words from the preface, 'This unpretentious volume has no claim to scholarship'. It is the foreword that is pretentious. The hundred incidents dealt with are treated gently and simply. Thoughts for meditation are not forced upon the reader, but are offered him for his attention. These stories from the Gospels are put in a popular idiom; they are just saved from vulgarity by the author's good taste. It is very doubtful whether the way of offering historical background has any value at all. Will it be of any help whatever to the reader for whom this book is intended to be told that Anna (called 'a devout old lady'), had lived through such events as the death of Alexander Jannaeus, of Queen Alexandra, the advent of Herod, etc.? Do not the simple words of the Gospel itself give a far stronger impression of what she must have been? The 'scholarship' shoved in in this way seems very much a case of blinding with science. In places points are brought out very clearly, in others they are forced out rather falsely. It is not at all a bad book, but it is also not at all what Fr D'Arcy would lead us to believe. G.R.H.



NOTICES

A GREAT many books and pamphlets have appeared this year to celebrate the centenary of Lourdes. We list some of them here with comments on their usefulness to our readers.