

his daily stack of letters mounted to four hundred, or that he was visited by Bishops, priests and people from all over the world. Meekness and humility; his *Domine non sum dignus* said with his eyes and heart fixed on God echoes back another act of humility: 'I can do all things in him who strengtheneth me'.

If this account is over-coloured, it does not contain a measure of the spiritual effect that flows from S. Giovanni Rotondo. But converts are often over-enthusiastic in the eyes of their more staid companions in the faith; and I was, as it were, converted to belief in Padre Pio. This came about by visiting him, because he crystallises what I had been taught, what I had been trying and still am trying to learn of the spiritual life. He emphasises continually and above all other considerations the primary importance of holiness, especially in a priest. To this end, he focuses everything into love, shown by complete emptying of self in the service of Love, through absolute humility and obedience. This he expresses in the Sacrifice of the Mass, carried on throughout the day in total surrender to God's children. I am not a doctor of psychology or mystical theology. But to me, the actual phenomenon of the stigmata seems unconnected here with hysteria, and in any case of minor importance, except in so far as it appears to mark previous and continued conformity to the will of God. Finally, if there is any truth in our Lord's words 'by their fruit you shall know them', then Padre Pio's influence would seem to come under the category of good fruit, for it has already happened many times that

Truth from his lips prevailed with double sway,
And fools, who came to scoff, remained to pray.



CORRIGENDUM & ADDENDUM

Readers doubtless were startled to learn from page 500 of our May issue that 'Stalin never drinks'. It was an amusing misprint, but as well as producing chronological difficulties it spoiled the point of the remark, which should have read: 'For Satan too never drinks'.

'THE DEATH OF A PROTESTANT' (p. 474 of the same issue). The acknowledgement should have read: 'By kind permission of the Countess von Moltke and the Oxford University Press.' An English edition of Graf von Moltke's life and works is being prepared by the Oxford University Press.