

THE KINGSHIP OF CHRIST. By W. A. Visser 'T Hooft. (S.C.M. Press; 4s.)

A valiant, valuable little book as uncompromisingly Protestant in tone as *Quas Primas* is Catholic. There is a harsh passage on page 90 in which allusion is made to 'church centred power politics'. This we feel would never have been written if the distinction between the Church Militant and the Church Triumphant had been grasped. A reading of Dom Aelred Graham's 'The Christ of Catholicism', pp. 293-309, would go far to dispel a number of unpleasant misconceptions of Catholic doctrine. We endorse the words of Dr Berkhof, 'The Church must again dare to preach the theocratic commandment. But it must do this in such a way that it does not exclude but include tolerance'. To say however that the true meaning of Christocracy is 'that the Church announces what it believes to be the word of Christ to the world, but that it does not use any other means of persuasion than the truth of its message' (p. 91), would seem to say that Christ is King without being Law-giver, which is to grant the Glory with one hand and to take away the Power with the other.

BODY, MIND AND SPIRIT. By Philip Leon. (S.C.M. Press; 2s. 6d.)

This short essay on a supremely difficult problem is addressed to the 'non-philosophic reader', but whether such a reader will get beyond the first chapter, especially page 29, one takes leave to doubt. To those however of an eclectic mentality we recommend the essay, confident that they will find it interesting and stimulating.

R.V.

DEAR BISHOP. By Catherine de Hueck. (Sheed and Ward; 6s.)

Catherine de Hueck is the woman who sold up her home and all she had to found Friendship House. The Bishop is Bishop Sheil, Auxiliary of Chicago, who has called her 'one of the most dynamic and colourful figures of our times'. During the war he asked her to find out the reasons for the leakage among American youth; what they thought of God and the Church. For six months she worked as a factory hand, a waitress, a barmaid, mixing, too, with what would be called in polite circles the scum of society. These are her reports to Bishop Sheil, and many will wonder how they have come to be published. She lived in a hell of sweated labour, obscenity and filth, and she does not spare us the facts.

For these young people the Church has ceased to count. It is not a force to be reckoned with. God, the Church, Christ, do not touch their lives. They mean nothing to them. Or do they? Appalling social conditions, no contact with the ministers of Christ, is it not expecting too much to wait for these lost sheep to come looking for the shepherd? Yet Christ thirsts for these souls. Who will give him to drink?

This is *the* problem of our times: the problem that cannot wait.

Someone must go to these Molokais (we have caused them) someone so fired with the love of God that they are ready to live and mix with sin and vice, prepared like St Francis to embrace the lepers, to show them that they are loved of God and men.

Once again we see the need for an organised lay-apostolate. But this book makes quite clear what a hard vocation that will mean.

ADRIAN DOWLING, O.P.

LES FONDEMENTS SPIRITUELS DE LA VIE. Par Vladimir Soloviev. Pp. 194. (Casterman, Tournai and Paris; n.p.)

It must be nearly twenty years since the French translation of this early work of Soloviev first appeared, and a second edition is most welcome. An English version of the French, under the title *God, Man and the Church*, was published by Messrs. James Clarke & Co. about 1938.

D. A.

A NATURE NOTE BOOK. By Sister Mary Ansgar, O.P. (Bloomsbury Publishing Co.; 2s. 6d.)

Children will like this little book with its pictures of the seasons—in each a child with his angel and the appropriate buds, flowers, sea shells and fruits clearly drawn above. These pictures can be coloured, and opposite is space for writing. It is a pity there is not also space for the child's *own* paintings.

These drawings, enlarged and coloured, are also produced in the form of a frieze for schoolroom or nursery.

S. M. F.

JESUS TEACHING. By Teresa Lloyd. (Sands; 8s. 6d.)

This book does what it claims to do—'to help those who teach as well as those who learn Christian doctrine in senior schools', though the emphasis is rather on the sayings of our Lord than on his actions. The book follows the text of the New Testament closely, and the authoress makes excellent suggestions for the application of the lessons learnt, whether in class or outside. The printing is good and there are some illustrations.

J.-D. C.

DESERT CALL. By Teresa Lloyd. (Sands; 7s. 6d.; illustrated.)

This book is helping to provide for a need, namely, readable books for boys concerning saints and holy men. A better subject than Charles de Foucauld could hardly be discovered, for, as an explorer of Morocco and hermit of the Sahara, he is admired by Catholic and Protestant, by Mohometan and pagan. It is inevitable that much is omitted in so short a book; it is however, in spite of imperfections in style, a story that should be in every library, where the life of a man who lived among the Touaregs cannot fail to attract attention.

J.-D. C.