

EXTRACTS

A NEW FRENCH REVIEW is a daring venture indeed when one considers the hundreds of tons of paper used every month for French journals. But the French Dominicans of the south have inaugurated LUMIÈRE ET VIE to fill the gap between the technical reviews and those of '*grande vulgarisation*' in the matter of doctrine. We are not in a position to judge of the extent of such a possibly wide no-man's-land; but it is certain that the Biblical words of the title presage a most needed elaboration of Scriptural themes. The first issue contains an article by the editor, Père A. Grail, O.P., on the Biblical revival in its relation to doctrine. Père Boissard, O.P., begins a series on 'How to read the Bible?' with a long introduction to St John's Gospel, and besides many other good things Professor Gilson considers the hopeful modern desire of Catholics to understand their faith better. First issues are often full of the choicest material, but this shows great promise too in its terms of reference. In view of the nature of this issue of LIFE OF THE SPIRIT we will, however, select the specifically Biblical articles for quotation. Père Grail concludes his article:

We must therefore resolve the paradox stated at the beginning of this article—the biblical revival and doctrinal impartiality—by a clearer understanding of each of these factors (i.e. the Bible and the teaching of the Church). Together they lead the Christian securely to him who is 'the way, the truth and the life'. This is one of the principal aims of the journal: not to separate what is inseparable in the Church of Christ—the sacred deposit of the Word of God in Scripture and the explanation given by the Church throughout the centuries, which it still gives today, in a great number of ways, for the 'authentic' life of her children.

Among a hundred good things concerning St John, here is Père Boissard on Moses:

From the beginning of Christianity men have either regarded Jesus as the new Moses of the New Alliance, or set Jesus and Moses in opposition, in order to bring out clearly the superiority of the former. St John also takes occasion to underline this theme (I, 17; 3, 14; 6, 32-5; 7, 23-3); but he is not content with direct references; it can be said that he systematically built up his whole gospel as a way of showing at once the parallelisms and the oppositions between the mediators of the two Alliances... He chose in particular the parallels with Exodus....

This is a very fruitful theme, and the author proceeds to show how Christ fulfils the work of Moses and does so by following the same pattern. It is of the greatest importance for Catholics to realise the doctrinal bearing of the Old Testament upon the New, and how the

Old deepens their understanding of the New; and here they will find such illuminations. It is to be hoped that the light of this review will do much to foster the life of Christians. The next issue is devoted to the Apostles' Creed and treats of the doctrinal founts of the 'symbol' and of its meaning. The review appears quarterly and may be had for 250 francs an issue or 1,300 francs a year from '*Lumière et Vie*', Saint-Alban-Leyse (Savoie). The first issue is composed of 140 large and well-printed pages.

VERBUM DOMINI, which describes itself as a 'bimensual commentary on Biblical matters, accommodated also to the Ministry of the Word', comes from Via Pilotta 24, Rome. The penultimate issue for 1951 contains some interesting material on the Songs of the Servant of Jahwe in Isaias, on the withered fig tree, etc.

CULTURA BIBLICA is a Spanish monthly review published from Grabador Espinosa, 4, Madrid. A recent issue contains articles on Biblical preaching, on reading the Scriptures, and commentaries on particular texts.

LA VIE SPIRITUELLE (Cerf.: Paris)—to return to a back number—devoted the whole of its July issue to 'The Word of God', and the Editor thus introduced the issue:

A new youthfulness in our faith and the liturgical revival forces men of today to make direct contact with the Word of God. This contact beginning with the Gospel extends naturally to St Paul and to the whole New Testament. After that the reader begins to realise that the Old Testament is not without interest: in fact, in order to understand the Gospel he must know the way of God as it enters human history with the call of Abraham. In and by Christ the Bible is one; and also one is the history of the movement and trials of God's people from Abraham to the Parousia. Furthermore, the divine history of humanity is also the history of each one of us.

EVANGELISER (Pensée Catholique; Liège) also devoted the major part of its November issue to Biblical subjects: 'Holy Scripture and Christian Life', 'The Bible in Religious Teaching', 'What about the prophecy of Jonas?' So in the world of foreign reviews the need for 'Scriptural nutrition' is realised and to a large extent catered for.

LIFE OF THE SPIRIT

Contributors are encouraged to submit original MSS. or translations from the Fathers. *Literary Communications* should be addressed to The Editor, Life of the Spirit, Blackfriars, Oxford (Tel. 47221). The Editor cannot be responsible for the loss of MSS. submitted; and no MS. will be returned unless accompanied by a stamped addressed envelope. *Subscriptions, Orders and Communications regarding Advertisements* should be addressed to The Manager, Blackfriars Publications, 34 Bloomsbury Street, London, W.C.1 (Museum 5728). Annual Subscription 17s. 6d. post free (U.S.A. \$2.50). *Binding: Orders and Enquiries for binding volumes of the review may be sent to the Kemp Hall Bindery, 33 St Aldate's, Oxford.*