

undertaken by Mother Mary Martin and her medical missionaries in Nigeria. He includes as well some beautiful stills of the film and a summary of the scenario. Apart from the intrinsic interest of the book as a technical document (Mr Buchanan gives the fullest details about cutting and dialogue and many other matters), it should do much to encourage the work of a modern congregation which employs all the resources of modern medicine within the traditional discipline of religious life. The book is an appropriate companion to the film, and both are admirable ambassadors for one of the great works of charity of our time.

I. E.

GLORIOUS THRESHOLD. A study of the Motherhood of the Blessed Virgin Mary. By Angela Verne. (Sands; 7s. 6d.)

This is a book of devotion founded on an absence of doctrine. A single example will show what is meant:

As He (Christ), the true temple of supernal grace, drew sustenance from her mystical motherhood and through her 'rational milk' and her pre-eminent love He grew and waxed strong in wisdom and grace with God and man, she, the Mother of Divine Grace, as typified in spirit by holy Mother Church, draws sustenance from his mystical body . . .' (p. 104).

If mystical motherhood means anything, Christ did not draw sustenance from it. 'Rational milk' makes sense in 1 Peter 2.2; here it makes none. It is heretical to attribute Christ's grace, or growth in grace, to Mary; and the context shows that grace is used in a theological sense. The last couple of lines makes no sense at all, unless by mystical body is meant the Blessed Sacrament, a confusion into which the author perhaps falls in an earlier passage (p. 50).

Without for a moment impugning the excellent intentions of the author, one may give one's opinion that such books do nothing but mislead the devout by their doctrinal muddle and to the undevout give a handle for scorn.

COLUMBA RYAN, O.P.

IMPERIAL MISSION. By Reinhold Schneider. Translated from the German by Walter Oden. (The Gresham Press, New York; \$3.00).

From a historical point of view, there are divergent opinions with regard to the wisdom of Las Casas's long struggle to gain freedom from Spanish territory for the natives of the West Indies and South America. *Imperial Mission*, though it envisages the story from one historical angle, transcends controversy in placing before the reader a wider combat, as old as the world, between God and Mammon. This book is far more than a beautifully told narrative, it is a challenge; and since knowledge is bought by experience, no one is better able to offer such a challenge than one who is already a victor

in the combat. This is a book to be meditated; a book which, on account of its spiritual application to our own times, deserves to be widely known. Walter Oden is to be congratulated on the excellent translation which offers it to English-speaking people; while Michael Ayrton's striking illustrations serve to emphasise its allegorical aspect.

In a book of such distinction it is, however, a pity to find technical errors in some of the references to Dominicans. It would be well to correct these in subsequent editions.

S.M.C.

THE NICHE OVER THE DOOR. By Mary K. Harris. (Sheed and Ward; 6s.)

This is one of the best Catholic children's books that has come our way for some time. Mary Harris understands children and writes for them as though they were rational beings, which is a rare virtue among children's authors, and one immediately appreciated by the children themselves.

S.M.F.

THE VEIL UPON THE HEART. By the Reverend G. Byrne, S.J. (M. S. Gill, Dublin; 5s.)

This is a book of great charm. It is beautifully written and well and pleasantly printed. It consists of eighteen chapters. We might describe them as spiritual essays. According to the 'blurb' on the jacket, it is a book on private prayer. We would rather describe it as a book which by its nature and its doctrinal contents led us to prayer. This it certainly does.

G.B.

THE FORERUNNER. By Teresa Lloyd. (Sands; n.p.)

The familiar Gospel story of St John the Baptist in a poetic setting. He who like the Master was from first to last 'led by the Spirit' through all the vicissitudes of the spiritual life is ever the model of all who sincerely seek to follow our Lord more closely, most of all of those who have to guide others in that way. To some of these this poem may show old truths in a fresh light.

S. M. A.

CHRIST IS ALL. By John Carr, C.S.S.R. (Sands; 5s.)

This is a sincerely written little book, addressed primarily to Catholics. It is 'chiefly of a moral and devotional nature intended to make belief in our Lord more vivid'. Generally it follows well-worn and pedestrian lines, which many may feel to be but an echo of what they have many times heard. We are not sure that the argument is cogent enough to carry conviction to the well-educated unbeliever. The use of scriptural texts as mere tags is lamentable. Surely the inner meaning of John 6, 58 can only be grasped when