

NOTICES

A DAILY MISSAL might seem a difficult book on which to exercise originality in design; but Messrs Laverty and Sons of Leeds in their new edition of *The Daily Missal and Liturgical Manual* have combined a generally traditional presentation with useful originality in detail. The Ordinary of the Mass in the centre is printed in large type, red rubrics, and Latin and English occupying opposite pages. The rest which contains all the Latin as well as the English for every Mass and for Vespers on Sundays and major feasts, presents the Latin in a smaller type and smaller column on the inside of the page, leaving the English neat and clear on the outside. It is definitely a missal for the English speaker who knows little Latin. The English too is the more familiar Douay. It is a pity that the illustrations, which are not pleasing, were not omitted to give room for the alternative Vigil of Easter service. At the end will be found a *Kyrie* with simple notations and Supplements for the British Isles and the Jesuit calendar. (Prices range from 25s. 6d. to 45s.)

ABBE ENGLEBERT has created the figure of a modern parish priest in *The Wisdom of Father Pecquet* (translated by Katherine Woods; Thames and Hudson; 10s. 6d.), a priest who gives his view about tobacco, the reputed vision of our Lady at Beauraing—'you see the trouble is that we do not possess a good treatise on the psychology of the Blessed Virgin, and that for a long time to come we shall be ignorant of the technique of a miraculous appearance'—beauty contests, marriage, and all sorts of modern things and situations. These supposed extracts from the jottings of a perspicacious priest make an entertaining and instructive book.

It is good to see the Benedictines of today increasingly fulfilling their function as mediators of the contemplative word, introducing modern man to the Word in the Scripture and the liturgy. Fr Benedict Baur, O.S.B., has written in this vein a thousand pages of commentary on the prayers of the Mass throughout the year. *THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD* (Herders; Vol. I, 56s.; Vol. II, 52s. 6d.) provides a treasury of scriptural quotations woven into the text of the commentary and related to the prayers, which include not only Collect, Secret and Postcommunion, but also other outstanding prayers like the 'O' antiphons before Christmas. We may lament the price of American books, but outlay on these two volumes should be regarded as a capital investment by a religious house or a Christian who has that amount of capital available.

MR JOHN BEEVERS has shown himself a member of the growing group of Catholics who know how to write and attract the attention of non-Catholics who enjoy reading a cultured and well-written book. Mr Beevers

concerns himself with fact, not fiction, and in *THE SUN HER MANTLE* (Browne and Nolan; 15s.) he describes, using all the available evidence, the nine appearances of our Lady during the last century. These, he tells us, are as important as any other major international event like a world war, if only because they have affected millions of people all over the world. Most space is devoted to the apparitions of La Salette, and readers should buy the book for that alone as it is hardly described elsewhere in English. Mr Beevers may at first seem rather credulous, but a closer reading will show that he is repeating evidence given of apparitions approved by ecclesiastical authority. He reserves his comments to the last chapter.

In 1950 Mgr Knox preached a course of Lenten conferences in Westminster Cathedral, which were published by the C.T.S. Now they make a welcome reappearance as *ST PAUL'S GOSPEL* (Sheed and Ward; 7s. 6d.). As one would expect, the style is lively, each conference is a well-shaped unity, and the series forms an artistic whole. *St Paul's Gospel* means, of course, not a narrative of Jesus's earthly life, which he presupposes, but the present life of Christ, who died for us and rose, and by which we live; it is the gospel of the new creation, Christ in his Body, the Church. It should entice us to make the Apostle our daily bread. When we lay down this introduction, we should take up his writings, in the original if may be, or in Mgr Knox's own translation, and nourish our spiritual life with them.

EXTRACTS

CHRISTIAN EXPERIENCE is the subject of a recent and interesting French book, commented on in *Etudes* (May). It is vital matter for those concerned to understand the fullness of Christian life, and one that despite its importance in questions dealing with the non-Catholic attitude to the Church has not received the attention it deserves. Outside the Church people put all the stress upon the experience of Christ and of divine things and they regard the Church as despising and even suppressing by its legalism the true feelings of salvation or of the presence of Christ. Inside the Church it often seems to be only those psychologically suited to certain types of prayer who are at all concerned with the question. The author of the book refuses to be led into the details of mystical experience and the like, but shows the fundamental duality of the experience which is proper to a full Christian life: the Christian is both active and passive in his personal awareness of God's activity. The reviewer sums up this part of the book:

Christian experience should not be purely *empirical*, a summary of conscious states, nor even simply *experimental*, co-ordinating and en-