

Notices

Some short books on Scriptural themes, mostly paperbacks, should be noted. *Josephus and the New Testament* by Hugh Montefiore (Mowbray 6s.) examines the parallelism between certain portents recorded by Josephus and also Tacitus, and some of the miraculous events recorded by the evangelists. The author favours the hypothesis that Josephus' list stems from Jewish tradition in which these portents have been dissociated from the origins of the Christian church and interpreted towards the Destruction of the Temple. Short, scholarly and easy to read.

Two books on the *Our Father*. The first (*Notes sur le Pater*, Desclée de Brouwer 57 FB) left uncompleted at her death by Raïssa Maritain and completed (the additions are indicated typographically) by M. Maritain himself is a series of short theological meditations on the petitions, based on recent scriptural exegesis: the general character of these meditations might be described as Carmelite scholasticism. The second, *The Lord's Prayer* by John Lowe (O.U.P. 10s.), is more scriptural and makes an excellent introduction to recent exegesis of the central prayer of Christendom: the petitions are elucidated from scripture itself. Both perhaps play down slightly the primitive eschatological nature of the prayer, but are worth while for their expositions of the way the prayer is interpreted in the different traditions: it need hardly be said that the traditions here are complementary.

Les Beatitudes by A. Bertrange (La Pensée Catholique, Brussels, 21 FB) is a translation from the Dutch. The author, a professor at a Catholic seminary, adopts a reasonable attitude to the question of the actual nucleus and its modulation in tradition, and has produced a brief but very rewarding piece of biblical theology; an excellent book for the layman wanting to understand the Beatitudes better.

Marian doctrine is one of the principal difficulties in the ecumenical dialogue. In *Born of the Virgin Mary* (The Easter Press 10s. 6d.) A. Lancashire has produced a book in which the scriptural and the ecclesiastical witness to Mary is set out in a context of biblical theology as a whole. He himself writes as an Anglican with Catholic sympathies but indicates fairly the objections of more protestant theologians; this would form a useful book for ecumenical groups to use as a starting point for discussion.

The Oxford University Press has reissued Dr Wheeler Robinson's important lectures *Inspiration and Revelation in the Old Testament* as a paperback costing only 6s.

B.W.

Le guide du Psautier by Pères Rimaud and Gelineau (Cerf, 8.40 NF) is for lay people who read the psalms in the Jerusalem Bible translation. The meaning and purpose of each psalm is indicated, rather than stated, by drawing attention to the recurring words and phrases that set its tone, and by listing the ways it is now used in the liturgy. The analytical indexes are very full and careful.

A further collection of the *Doctrinal Pamphlet Series* comes from the Paulist Press, N.Y., covering such matters as faith, prayer, various scriptural themes, each of the sacraments. At 15c. a piece they are of much the same length as our own C.T.S. pamphlets, but have the merit of reliability. Though it varies, the standard never drops below a permissible level - very important with booklets that are bought and sold quite uncritically at a thousand repositories. In general the approach is scriptural, the theology sound: only the language still tends to a rather stuffy jargon.

The Jewels of Lent by Cecilia Philips (Our Lady's Catechists, The Carmelite Monastery, Bramshott, Liphook, Hants., 3s. 6d.) is a collection of meditations on the masses for each day of Lent, written for children and their teachers. They provide simple and freshly-written comments on the contents of the proper of each mass. By contrast the 'Practical Points' that follow seem to have wandered from the liturgy into some rather odd traditions.

Newman at St Mary's (Newman Press \$4.50) turns out to be a selection of twenty *Parochial and Plain Sermons*. Other recent reprints include Gerald Vann's *Heart of Man* (Collin's Fontana Series, 2s. 6d.) and once again Michael Day's translation of the *Introduction to the Devout Life*, this time in Burns and Oates' Golden Library at 10s. 6d.

L.B.