

existence of God, the origins of man, capitalism and many other topics allow the reader to get the bearings of the problem and to take the right direction to its solution. The work of elaboration and presentation remain for the reader to do for himself, but here, apart from the bibliography, he is offered the series of themes which must be undertaken, their exact character, and the lines of Christian doctrine in harmony with the conquests of modern science along which progress is to be made. This is a book which can be recommended for professors of apologetics, as well as for those who direct study circles.

H.R.

WOMAN TODAY. By John Fitzsimons. (Sheed and Ward; 8s. 6d.)

Many people feel that there are two vital facts affecting the happiness of women in the modern world, facts which have not yet been generally recognised. One is that our society has undergone a fundamental change during the past hundred and fifty years, and the other is that woman is not man's inferior nor his equal but his complement.

In this book Fr Fitzsimons has 'attempted to set forth the causes of woman's distress in our industrial society, arising chiefly from her lack of status now that the home no longer has the central place which it formerly enjoyed'. This lack of status is the reason for the sense of insecurity or of frustration experienced by many women, married or single, in the world of today. Some women react emotionally and with prejudice, while others have given the matter some thought as was shown by the recent correspondence in *The Spectator* referred to by the author. This book will anger or provoke the former group, while the latter should find in it a great deal of solid material for further thought.

The essential idea discussed is that woman's nature is dominated by two inter-related factors: firstly 'other-centredness' or dependence on others for fulfilment and secondly the maternal instinct expressed either physically or spiritually. In order to show woman how to face her problem and to indicate some of the means she has at her disposal, several chapters are devoted to her 'distinctive qualities, physical, intellectual and moral capabilities'. These qualities are then considered in the settings of work and education and special attention is paid to the position of the single woman.

The author justifies the inclusion of a chapter with the unusual title 'Towards a Theology of Woman' by pointing out that 'not only do men and women differ in their bodies, but they are different in their very personalities. They differ precisely in the way in which they know and in the way in which they love. There is every reason then to suppose that woman has a special place in God's plan for the world, in its creation as in its redemption.' Obviously, in a few pages, this can be no more than an

outline, although, even within these limits, some of the ideas are unnecessarily obscured by the author's elliptical style.

As the happiness of women, and even the future of society itself, depend to a large extent on woman's finding her true place in the world again, any contribution to the scanty literature on this subject is to be welcomed. In addition to its value on this score, *Woman Today* not only clarifies the problem by presenting it in its historical, social and economic settings but also opens up certain positive lines for constructive thought and action.

K. CIANTAR

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