

divine Word: but this fact itself transfigures history. How could it be empty and meaningless—that time which saw Jesus come to birth, suffer, die and rise again? How could it be reversible or repeatable *ad infinitum*?

It is not possible for a non-specialist to assess the importance of Professor Eliade's thesis. But one cannot fail to be enormously impressed by the scope of his thought, and his determination to treat religion as religion, and not as a branch of sociology or anything else. As in *Patterns in Comparative Religion*, his longer work, the analysis of time is perhaps the most valuable thing in the book. With the emphasis that is coming more and more to be placed today on the *Heilsgeschichte*, it seems to me that what he has to say is relevant to a lot of our more strictly theological thought.

The translation is excellent.

ROSEMARY SHEED

JOYFUL MOTHER OF CHILDREN, by a Loreto Sister; Gill, 30s.

It is just one hundred years since the death of Mother Francis Teresa Ball, the subject of this biography. Today more than one hundred Loreto convents in all parts of the world bear witness to this remarkable woman's work for Catholic education.

Born into the wealthy Dublin society of the early nineteenth century, she 'forsook the world ere it forsook her' and was sent to England by her director, the celebrated Dr Murray, Archbishop of Dublin, to make her noviceship at the Bar Convent, York. Here she was to imbibe the spirit of the Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary with a view to returning and establishing it in Ireland. (The Bar Convent, owing to the Napoleonic Wars, was cut off from its Generalate on the continent and thus, as an isolated community, hardly in a position to make the foundation, as they had been requested to do).

Mother Teresa Ball was eminently qualified for the undertaking and her religious life of forty years is an amazing record of achievement—having started from one tiny foundation, at her death Loreto convents numbered thirty-seven, and were established in the four quarters of the globe.

The author of this biography has given a very complete account of Mother Teresa's work and of all the difficulties overcome, labours undertaken and trials endured, in this far from easily won 'success story'. There are detailed accounts, also taken from contemporary letters, chronicles, or necrologies, of the lives of Mother Teresa's pioneer companions. The result is a valuable and inspiring factual history of the establishment of the Irish Branch of the Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary. But it must be admitted that disappointment awaits the reader eager to encounter the real person, this character so paradoxically composed of gentle sweetness and authoritative determination, of unassuming charm and far-sighted enterprise. The personality of Mother Teresa does not emerge and we meet not a character in the round, but a portrait which might fit many another woman of her spiritual calibre—a type but not an individual.

However, as the dedication discloses, the book is intended primarily for past pupils of Loreto for whom Mother Teresa Ball will already be a living personality and it is to these readers that it will give the greatest pleasure. The many illustrations, especially the photographs of houses of the Institute in many countries, and the fine portrait on the dust jacket add to the appeal of a well-presented volume.

URSULA MURPHY

Notices

THE CHILDREN, by Rosemary Haughton (D.L.T., 8s. 6d.) gives lively, straightforward and extremely sensible advice to parents on teaching their children the faith. Follow it and help to cut the lapse-rate.

THE CITY, edited by Donal Flanagan (Gill, 7s.) is a set of twelve short essays on various aspects of the Church, reprinted from the *Furrow*, all by priests, mostly Irish.

NOTRE PAIN QUOTIDIEN, by Honoré Sarda M.D.F. (Les éditions ouvrières, NF 4.50) gives scripture readings, mainly from the gospels, arranged under twenty-seven weeks, a theme to each week, with simple commentary and jolly pictures—all very French.

The rest are translations. CHRIST'S RESURRECTION, by P. Bourgy O.P. (Challoner, 7s. 6d.) is popular theology of the best kind, a valuable short account of the new insight that has been gained into the central mystery of our faith, and in good English.

THE LIFE OF FAITH, by Romano Guardini (Burns and Oates, 10s. 6d.) is theology of a different kind, in the solid German manner, leaning on philosophy. It deals with the Christian experience of faith.

FERNAND PORTAL, by H. Hemmer (Macmillan, 25s.) is an abridgement of a French book published in 1947, the life and theological ideas of the 'apostle of unity', friend of Lord Halifax, who worked so long for corporate reunion with the Church of England. A useful book for those willing to learn from the mistakes of the past.

CHRYSOSTOM'S COMMENTARY ON ST JOHN (Homilies 48-88, completing the work) is a recent volume in the patristic translations from Fathers of the Church, Inc. (n.p.). Chrysostom is not easy to recognise in his nineteenth century dress, for this is translation of the 'nay rather' kind, useful mainly for filling library shelves.

PROBLEMS IN PSYCHOANALYSIS (Burns and Oates, 30s.) is an ably translated and useful symposium by European Freudian analysts, the last third of which concerns frontier problems with religion.

L.B.