

his grace; but we must not rely *passively* on that power and grace; we must make *active* use of every known means of preparing the path for the operation of grace in the world of nature.

It is not suggested that every priest should devote himself to this specialized branch of study and actively co-operate with a psychologist; but every priest is asked at least to be alive to what medical psychology has to teach about the human personality, so that he may apply himself to his confessional work with greater effect. The priest is often the first to have an opportunity of recognizing a disorder which frequently manifests itself for the first time in the confessional. He ought to be able to sense when a patient is ill and needs, in the first place, a cure on the natural level; and such people must be given to understand that *they are ill*, and that it is because of their illness that 'confession doesn't work'. Again, the task of spiritual rehabilitation, which is the priest's special work, requires great tact and a delicate psychological insight if the work of the doctor is not to be undone and the patient thrown back into a worse state than before. The authors have cases on record which confirm the claim that 'priests often increase the difficulties . . . by talking as if from the pulpit; they teach objective truth and pay no attention to the subjective situation of the individual'.

This book is not a piece of quackery. It is a sane and balanced study by men of the highest competency in their own particular line. One may not agree with all they say—for instance, that a neurotic is obliged under pain of sin to seek a cure—but at least one is stimulated and forced to face up to a number of important problems. More could have been said on the danger of breaking the seal of confession in the work of co-operation of priest and psychologist. The case histories presented are of great practical help in seeing the principles. And finally, a word of praise is due the translator for an excellent rendering of the German.

MURDOCH SCOTT, O.P.

THE DIVINE MASTERPIECE. By Gabriel M. Roschini, o.s.m. (The Mercier Press; 7s. 6d.)

THE MOTHER OF GOD. By M. M. Philipon, o.p. (The Mercier Press; 7s. 6d.)

The Mercier Press offers us two studies on our Lady by eminent theologians. The theme of each book is the same: Mary's mission as the Mother of God, and her role as Mediatrix of all graces. Inevitably, then, they have much in common; yet neither is a mere repetition of the other. Father Philipon gives more space to the doctrine of the divine motherhood and regretfully omits all consideration of the virtues and the gifts especially as related to our Lady. This, however, is a notion developed at some length by Father Roschini, and so each book complements the other. But there is a marked contrast of style.

*The Divine Masterpiece* is a scholastic exercise; parts, chapters, and sections are laid out with logical precision, and the theological doctrines presented and developed in strict form. This is the weakness of the book: it is dull, and, in spite of the syllogisms, unconvincing. Father Philipon is more haphazard in his presentation of the theme, but he succeeds in bringing to his work a warmth and lively conviction which is absent from that of Father Roschini. Father Philipon helped himself very much by collecting all *theological notes* in a last chapter.

MURDOCH SCOTT, O.P.



## NOTICES

THE EVERYDAY CATHOLIC. By Martin Harrison, O.P. (Blackfriars Publications; 18s. 6d.)

'The reader will look in vain for a scholarly treatise.' So the preface tells us, but I wonder if this is quite true? Is not experience perhaps a better school than any? This book is the fruit of years of experience with souls. Why should truth be of necessity expressed in language that misses ninety per cent of the population? To whom did our Lord preach if not to the multitudes? Were not all his examples taken from everyday life? Is it unscholarly to be simple? This is a splendid book full of common sense. This is the third edition, and may it have many more. 'I give thee praise that thou hast hidden all this from the wise and the prudent, and revealed it to little children.' (Matt. 11, 25.)

AS THE EAGLE. By A Carmelite Pilgrim. (P. J. Kenedy & Sons; \$3.50.)

There can be little doubt that Mother Butler was one of the great modern women. This book gives an excellent idea of her teaching and spirit from her own words. It is always interesting to know that such people have lived in our own times and that sanctity is not a thing of the past impossible of attainment in our own day.

FREQUENT CONFESSION. By P. H. C. Chèry, O.P. (Blackfriars; 2s.)

A very handy and wise little guide. It might well be digested by many who confess frequently and regularly to prevent them from getting into a rut.

THE THEOLOGY OF THE APOSTOLATE. By Mgr. L. J. Suenens. (The Mercier Press; 7s. 6d.)

This small book is a work about the aims of the Legion of Mary. The author, at present Auxiliary Bishop of Malines, is the Belgian national promoter of the Legion. His book will prove helpful to the Legionary and useful to those who want to know something about its ideals.