

Trinity; the second section is concerned with the Church, the third with the sacraments. The book was intended by the author, himself a parish priest, to help the clergy in the preparation of instructions; but its clear, readable exposition makes it a book which can be recommended to the laity also.

A.R.

*THE SEVEN SWORDS.* By Gerald Vann, O.P. (Collins; 5s.)

This book is based on a series of Lenten sermons, and consists of an introductory chapter and seven meditations on the Sorrows of our Lady. The author is at his best. The book can be warmly recommended for Lenten reading, but it will be kept and pondered upon by those who have it, because of its lucid and warm treatment of spiritual principles.

A.R.

*THE HIGH GREEN HILL.* By Gerald Vann, O.P. (Collins; 7s. 6d.)

*The High Green Hill* is composed of a series of addresses and essays. The author tells us that no single theme or thread of thought runs through the book. It is simply a collection of independent papers. Nevertheless, it does possess a certain unity, since all the essays deal with many aspects of the Christian life. Its fifteen chapters are simple, interesting and instructive.

To many of us, the august mystery of the Trinity seems to be something abstract. Consequently, it is never applied to our lives. However, Father Vann with exceptional ability overcomes this difficulty. He takes the 'Fatherhood of God', the 'Friendship of the Son' and the 'Indwelling of the Holy Ghost', and deals with them in such a way as to encourage timid souls. The practical importance of the Trinity is shown clearly. To quote the author's words: 'It shows us—a thing we could otherwise never know—what man's total response to God is meant to be, and how, in the totality of that response, man himself is made whole'.

'Confession and Health of Soul' is another chapter worthy of mention. Penance restores life to the soul. Yet some of the effects of our sins may remain, and the full restoration of health may have to be gradual. For that work of restoration the grace of the Sacrament is intended to give us strength and courage. The author shows us another and wider function of Penance. 'It is medicinal to the life of the Church as a whole. We retard the Church's work by our sins; we can help it on by the use of the Sacrament.' In short, the practice of confession is described in a way to attract the neglectful. Here, then, the reader will find many valuable ideas, as old as Christianity itself, but presented with a verve and punch very suited to the needs of the times in which we live.

PATRICK J. O'MAHONY.