

CHRIST'S WAY. By Mother Simeon, S.C.H.J. (Douglas Organ; 7s. 6d.)

This book of meditations for young women demands considerable commendation because it teaches the active virtues without discarding contemplation. It follows the gospel story quite simply; and because the thought is rich it will last a long time, because it is shrewd it will keep prayer alive. 'Christ had to snatch his peace and his short times with his Father just as we do'—the woman taken in adultery had a claim on Christ because she was his neighbour—Cosmetics like sweets can be the object of renunciation. These are samples of a book whose strong spirit will warm the heart the more deeply as it is taken in small measures.

CHRIST IN HIS MYSTICAL BODY. By C. J. Woollen. (Sands; 6s.)

As the title declares this is an attempt to explain the doctrine of the Mystical Body simply. Simplicity seems often to cloak ill-digested theology, but we can be grateful for the parallel-use of Old and New Testaments and the highlights thrown on a few neglected truths such as the angels' place in the Mystical Body.

QUESTIONS THEOLOGIQUES SUR LE MARIAGE. By Edmond Boissard, O.S.B. (Les Editions du Cerf; Blackfriars).

Canon Masure has recently pointed out how often the seminary course passes over far too briefly the very sacrament for which the student is supposed to be spending all his time in preparing. Less disastrous, but still inexcusable, is the even hastier treatment of the one sacrament that he will never receive or even confer. Not as if marriage were neglected in the seminaries. Now, more than ever, the greatest care is given to the study of the Canon Law and Moral Theology of marriage: all the possible ways in which impediments might arise are mastered, the regulations *de usu matrimonii* are known—sometimes with mathematical precision—and the horrifyingly liberal views of saintly theologians on conjugal rights duly noted. But how many priests have been equipped with an adequate exegesis of Luke xx, 34-36, or could satisfy a devoted couple as to how their love will endure in heaven?

Dom Boissard devotes a special and most illuminating chapter to marriage 'dans l'au delà' in this thoroughly scientific, but eminently readable and attractive *Dogmatic* theology of matrimony. That particular question is of course not the most important and, after briefly answering those who argue, 'In the good old days people just got married and got on with it. Why bother them with theology?' he devotes a third of the book to the elucidation of the meaning (*sens*) and ends of marriage. He very graciously apologises for his repeated criticisms of the views of Dr Herbert Doms at this point and he insists on the notable contribution that the latter has made by bringing out the tremendous importance of an essential if secondary end and the profound spiritual unity of those joined in one flesh. Defend-