

REVIEWS

OUR LADY IN OUR LIFE. By M. V. Bernadot, O.P., translated by Professor Mary Ryan. (Mercier Press; 8s.6d.)

In recent years there has been a renewal of devotion to our Blessed Lady, a renewal that is attributable in part to the happenings at Fatima. It is therefore very appropriate to have translated and made available to a bigger circle of readers this particular work by Père Bernadot. Here we have expounded simply yet profoundly the function and rôle of the Mother of God in the spiritual formation of the Christian. Taking as his starting point the divine Motherhood of our Lady, stressing that thereby she is the Mother of *Christus totus*, that is of all who are regenerated in Christ through baptism, Père Bernadot applies this doctrine to the rôle of Mary in the means of our sanctification. Thus we learn her part in the sacraments, in prayer, as mediatrix of grace. We are given too an instructive chapter which sets forth how our Lady's influence helps us sanctify all the humdrum tasks and duties and the seemingly insignificant circumstances that go to make up our daily life.

From the pen of such an authority as Père Bernadot we expect a book that is compact in doctrine and enlightening in exposition. Nor are we disappointed in the present volume, wherein the subject is treated in masterly fashion. For such an able presentation we are indebted in no small measure to the skilful manner in which the translator, Professor Mary Ryan, has discharged her task.

TERENCE NETHERWAY, (O.P.)

THE PASSION OF THE INFANT CHRIST. By Caryll Houselander. (Sheed & Ward; 6s.)

None other than our Blessed Lord himself has demanded that we become as children if we desire to enter the kingdom of heaven. We witness our re-birth in Christ through baptism, and though we grow in grace (especially as conferred by the sacraments) 'unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the age of the fullness of Christ', we must ever retain something of the simplicity, innocence, spontaneity, generosity, docility of the child. The revelation of the Fatherhood of God, and the need for man to realise his utter and complete dependence on his heavenly Father is the keynote to the understanding of the sermon on the mount. Indeed, this obedience to and acknowledgment of God's Fatherhood are testified to in our Lord's gestures and words throughout his public ministry. But in a world that has bartered the spirit of the gospels for mammon, that has forsworn reality and arrogantly sought to live by a token, that has become increasingly self-assertive and artificial there is special need to re-learn and re-acquire a childlike habit of soul.

Miss Houselander has taken the theme of the infant Christ for