

THE VOICE OF LOURDES, A Pilgrimage in Vision and Recorded Sound; Text by Illtud Evans, O.P., Hutchinson, 22s. 6d.

All pilgrims to Lourdes retain indelible memories; some may be personal, some will be common to all. It may be that one has an impression, vague or clear, of Lourdes as a hidden spring that keeps the world going round; certainly he recalls seeing something of all the world there. Another may retain as it were a visionary impact of the Grotto, and for him the mystery of man appears greater than the mystery of God. But all pilgrims inevitably have a vivid memory of the sick, of their passage along the streets, in the domain and in the underground Basilica. And memory recalls them as obviously consoled by the Mother of God. What would Lourdes be without the sick, the disabled and the deformed? Indeed, what would the world be without them?

*The Voice of Lourdes* attempts to make your pilgrimage re-live, and in fancy sets you at the Grotto again to await what happens. The illustrations and thoughtful text refresh your recollection of all that you saw and heard. The photographs are mostly good; the eight of the sick are excellent. I think I should have liked also some picture of the inescapable shops, where no doubt this book will, in due course, be on sale. They also are a clear memory, and few pilgrims ignore the purveyors of piety. And I looked in vain for a picture of the brancardiers with their leather bretelles. Their humility doubtless avoids publicity but they are of the essence of Lourdes.

Accompanying the book are two small double-sided records intended to be played as background. You hear again the hymns, the voices and the sounds familiar to every pilgrim. But I suspect the commentary was composed and produced in a hurry, otherwise *Laudate* (sic) *Sion* would not have escaped correction, nor perhaps would the word 'myriad' have occurred three times within a few sentences.

Lourdes makes an excellent topic for this modern type of publication. No doubt time will produce a decided improvement on this first effort. Not but what I am still pleased that I gave as Christmas presents three copies of *The Voice of Lourdes* before I had seen or heard it.

R. J. CORBOY

A LIGHT TO THE NATIONS, by Robert Martin-Achard; Oliver and Boyd, 12s. 6d.

It is unfortunate that this book begins with a rather simple account of the New Testament usage of the Old. Complex matters are too easily dealt with in this section. Is it, for example, enough to remark that the Church 'is in duty bound to fulfil Old Testament prophecy?' Even popular accounts like those of Charlier and Vawter realize more of the problems involved here.

When, however, Dr Martin-Achard arrives at the main subject of his book—