

hope and peace, and the symbol of the mushroom-shaped cloud with its tidings of hate, despair and destruction.

There are two points of criticism. Mr Peter Cheyney was a master of the colourful and epigrammatic book-title, but Mr Cheyney was quite unique in that respect. The book is prefaced by the author's reflections on the vanities of this world occasioned by a walk through London. No doubt the writing of this chapter did him some good, but having got it out of his system he would have been better advised to throw it into the waste-paper basket. What could be more chaste and demure than the wink of the strawberry-blonde who invites us to 'Enjoy life with Milk'? (She is not, by the way, a film star.) And perhaps the spiritual life of more than a few of us would 'revive on it, thrive on it, good wholesome beer, the best long drink in the world'.

MURDOCH SCOTT, O.P.

1. THE ROOTS OF THE REFORMATION. By Karl Adam.

2. MARRIAGE AND THE FAMILY. By F. J. Sheed.

3. CONFESSION. By John C. Heenan.

Canterbury Books (Sheed and Ward; 3s. 6d. each.)

This new series of short, informative guide-books to the essentials of Catholic teaching is designed primarily for the modern religious pilgrim who wants to know where he ought to be going and what he ought to be up to. For such a person, we are told, the Catholic Church is a challenge, for she claims to give a clear, definitive and unique answer to that kind of question.

A description in these terms would lead one to expect a number of controversial or narrowly catechetical little books of apologetics, in the worst sense of that misused word. Fortunately the first three volumes in the series give one hopes that this will not be so, but that may be because they are extracts from books already published primarily for the Catholic reader.

The first of these Canterbury Books is a large extract of some eighty pages from *One and Holy*. Its appeal will be limited to a fairly intelligent and educated section of the public; it would be difficult to find a more succinct and yet penetrating study of the mystery of Luther. The second forms the central portion of Dr Sheed's *Society and Sanity*, and is wholly admirable. It is theologically and psychologically sane, with a freshness of spirit and not a little humour. It is unreservedly recommended to all engaged and young married couples and to any marriage counsellor who may have overlooked it in its original form. The third book is an abridged version of Bishop Heenan's *Priest and Penitent*. No sneering criticism is intended in saying that this will probably

be of most help to simple people whose lives, hard as they may be, are not complicated by any deep, reflective thought.

It is to be hoped that the authors of the volumes that are to be specially written for the series will support the view that the best way to invite non-Catholics to an acceptance based on love as well as knowledge of the fulness of the faith within the Catholic Church is by presenting the teaching of the Church in a way designed to help Catholics appreciate and understand better what they already believe.

MURDOCH SCOTT, O.P.

CHRISTIANS AWAKE. By Fr Gordon Albion. (Longmans; 12s. 6d.)

I hope no one will be put off by the outward appearance of this book. Its glossy plastic cover and even its title seem to be preparing us for something in the evangelical, 'muscular Christianity' line, something perhaps a little superficial and flashy. But open the book and you will find a mine of good things. Truly evangelical Fr Albion certainly is—both by the faithfulness with which he re-tells the Gospel story, and by his burning desire to spread its Good News. The book is a collection of his broadcasts, addressed as he says, primarily to the 'Great Unchurched'—but which (I may add) should not be overlooked by those of the Household of Faith. His aim throughout has been to foster in us that *awareness* of God which will lead us to love and serve him; so, except for one chapter at the end, a discussion of denominational differences lies outside his scope. The titles of the various sections will give some idea of his approach: 'God and You'; 'You and God'; 'You and Your Neighbour'; 'Just You'; 'Can God do without You?' Both language and matter are clear, personal and direct; and as befits his purpose, he is more telling in concrete and narrative passages than in the abstract. The section on Prayer ('You and God') is especially helpful. While this book will be of great value to Catholics, we may hope that it will be far more widely read. It should do much to deepen the life of faith and prayer of those who, though sincere Christians, are still outside the Visible Church.

F.R.

BRAVE WINGS. By Doris Burton. (Burns and Oates; 12s. 6d.)

There is no obvious attempt here to edify. Just the simple story of a most varied collection of people of eight nations. But it is quite inspiring. Perhaps if the youth of today would read it they would be the better for these splendid examples of simple unaffected brave piety. There is nothing mushy about any of these heroes. It is good solid wholesome meat. Thanks to Doris Burton the good is not interred with their bones, we hope.

DOMINIC SIRE, O.P.