

This book is written in a popular dramatic style with a cascade of metaphors and Irish colloquialism—often very pointed and apt, sometimes sloppy. We think that the dramatisation and the very frequent spiritual developments from some word or action of Matt's are substantially true to the facts as they are known—and it undoubtedly paints in the Dublin background clearly and colourfully. It is a convincing description of sanctity, and a needed one. If the Church puts her seal on the holiness of this Irish ascetic (in the true Celtic tradition with his chains and fasts—and the first to be canonised for how many centuries?), 'The face of the common man will be lifted to him in heaven. The message of Nazareth—that master-message of Matt Talbot's life—will be brought again before the world'.

I would add a word of sorrow to see the Mercier Press, founded explicitly for the propagation of Truth, descending to the modern advertising habit of 'boosting' its authors in a way which is really not convincing.

JOHN M. TODD.

LE MARIAGE CHRETIEN. By Chanoine Jacques Leclercq. (Casterman; n.p.)

This is the second edition of a work characterised by exact theology and acute observation of human relationships. If there is nothing very new in it, the approach is interesting and refreshing. Particularly noteworthy is the chapter on 'L'amour affectif et charnel', which displays an unusual appreciation of feminine needs in marriage.

E.Q.

NOW WELCOME SUMMER. By Francis Herlihy. (Clonmore & Reynolds; 8s.6d.)

Any competent narrative of work in the mission fields must appeal to us, and Father Herlihy's narrative is in every way satisfying. He is unobtrusive, proving himself an admirable guide in those far-away places where, in spite of opposition and hardship, so much has been done for God. The later chapters in the book, where the experienced missionary analyses the Japanese character and discusses the missionary prospects among the Japanese, are particularly illuminating.

Looking back over his work in Korea, Father Herlihy concludes on a hopeful note. 'I have dreamed of a summer', he writes, 'slowly awakening the fields that many died to sow, and surely driving night's long black from the Land of Morning Calm.' May it indeed be so.

KIERAN MULVEY, O.P.