

many of the admirable works they have published. The benefit is the greater, of course, when the subject of the assembled articles is the unique one here chosen. As Christians and Catholics we all know that we should try to grow in the knowledge of Christ—whether we do try is another matter. But here at least is a new chance, an opportunity of seeing him, and matters pertaining to him, through the eyes of many—more than forty authors, in fact—who in one way or another may be able to enlighten us. The wide variety of standpoints and styles of treatment should please those especially who can seldom find a spiritual book that suits them. The two main ways by which we can seek to enlarge our knowledge of Christ—the study of his earthly life and of his life in his Mystical Body, the Church—are each well provided for. The first three of four sections into which the anthology is divided are concerned with our Lord's human life until Pentecost, while the last one continues the story 'To the end of Time'.

The book is a companion to *The Mary Book* published two years ago, and is very like it. It has however the further advantage of some theological appendices, taken from Mr Sheed's *Theology and Sanity*, which supply a useful framework. M.H.

LA PAUVRETE. Collection 'Problèmes de la Religions d'aujourd'hui'. (Cerf; Blackfriars; n.p.)

The conference convened by the Editor of *La Vie Spirituelle* to consider the very real problems of Religious Sisters in France has recently discussed the question of Chastity and the substance of their discussion will appear in book form next year. The present volume contains the papers of last year's discussion on the vow of Poverty. It would have been easy to be carried away with enthusiasm for such a Christian subject. But Père Ple, the Editor, saw the danger of such general treatment, in view of the fact that it is in the practice of poverty that the religious is most directly implicated in the economic and social changes in the world around. This is particularly true today with the advent of Marxism and the difficulties regarding capitalism. So the volume treats not only of the evangelical and monastic call to 'sell all and follow Christ', but also of canonical and economic matters concerned with the vow. Procurators may benefit in particular, as well as superiors, by these pages; and those who realise the importance of the constitution *Sponsa Christi* will find here useful applications of it to the present situation of religious sisters. The volume will appear in an English translation in 1953. C.P.

THE ASCENT TO TRUTH. By Thomas Merton. (Hollis and Carter; 18s.)

In these days, when even Catholics are in danger of being infected with indifference and materialism, any book that will help us to get back to our own spiritual past, that will introduce us again to the great doctors of