

RAGMAN'S CITY. By Boris Simon. (Harvill Press; 18s.)

All readers of THE LIFE OF THE SPIRIT will have heard of Abbé Pierre. Many of them will have a vague idea of what he has done, and is still doing. It would be a good thing if we all knew about, and were painfully aware of, his work, because it is our concern. We are all members one of another.

Anyone who reads *Ragman's City* will be ashamed, and that is salutary. That such poverty could exist just on the other side of the English Channel, and that it would seem, before the emergence of Abbé Pierre, to have been taken for granted in so many quarters, is shaming to our self-composure.

We have not such wide-spread destitution in this country. But eighty years ago we had something similar in the great towns, when priests like Father Nugent in Liverpool, or our own Father Lewis Weldon in Newcastle upon Tyne, rose to the challenge and did much to defeat it. They, like Abbé Pierre, were eyes to the blind, feet to the lame, and fathers of the poor. Let us learn, and share by our prayers in his work.

B.D.B.

NOTICES

PREPARING FOR CHRISTMAS. By A. M. Avril, O.P., tr. by S. O. Palleska. (Blackfriars; 12s. 6d.)

We received this book too late for review, and would just bring it to our readers' notice as appropriate Christmas reading. It is a collection of Sermons for the Sundays of Advent, for the great feasts of the season, and for the Sundays after Epiphany. The feast called in the list of contents and in the chapter title *The Holy Ways of Jesus* should of course be taken as *The Holy Name of Jesus*.

The January-February issue of THE LIFE OF THE SPIRIT will be a special double number on the theme of

CHRISTIAN UNITY.

It will contain articles on Ecumenical subjects by the Editor, Père C. J. Dumont, O.P., Mgr H. F. Davis, J. M. Todd, Rev. A. M. Allchin (Anglican), as well as articles from Germany, Holland and France on the Ecumenical work being done in these countries.

Non-subscribers who wish to secure copies of this special issue, price four shillings, should apply early to Blackfriars Publications, 34 Bloomsbury Street, W.C.1.