

depth of meaning—a depth which cannot be conveyed in paraphrase. The translators have made what very nearly amounts to a *précis* of this work rather than a translation; and in doing this they have definitely risked the danger of merely skimming the piety off the top. It is not, in fact, as bad as this, but it certainly represents but very little the deep and penetrating thought of William of St Thierry.

G.H.

NOTICES

SOME of the following books deserve a full review, but can only be noticed briefly here because their subject-matter (philosophy, literature or history) is not the direct concern of *THE LIFE OF THE SPIRIT*.

ERASMUS AND THE HUMANIST EXPERIMENT, by Louis Bouyer, Cong. Orat. (Chapman, 18s.), traces the relationship between Christian civilization and Renaissance humanism, from Nicholas of Cusa and Vittorino de Feltre to Paul III.

THEIR RIGHTS AND LIBERTIES, by Thomas O'Brien Hanley, S.J. (Newman Press, Maryland, \$2.75), is a study of the history of Maryland in the seventeenth century, and of the way in which the colonists worked out a new and freer relationship between the Church, the state and the individual citizen than that which prevailed in Europe.

BALZAC THE EUROPEAN, by E. J. Oliver (Sheed and Ward, 15s.), is a study of his life and writings, interesting and well written.

GOSPEL QUESTIONS AND INQUIRIES, by Bernard Basset, S.J. (Sheed and Ward, 8s. 6d.), contains more than two hundred inquiries, each preceded by the appropriate excerpt from the gospels in the Knox translation. The inquiries were tried out over a period of nine years before publication, and should prove very useful for individual as well as group use.

LIVING THE MASS, by F. Desplanques, S.J. (Newman Press; Sands, 12s. 6d.), is a series of meditations on the mass, intended to help the faithful participate by offering themselves to God along with the host. The content is excellent, but the English translation, which is printed in a free-verse form, is sometimes flat and prosaic, sometimes ponderously rhetorical.

THE HOLY SPIRIT AND THE ART OF LIVING, by J. A. O'Driscoll, S.M. (Herder, 9s. 6d.). A short treatise on the seven gifts of the Holy Ghost, firmly based on the Bible, the Fathers and St Thomas, but presented in a rather dull style.

THE CROSS OF JESUS, vol. 2, by Louis Chardon, O.P. (Herder, 30s.). A treatise on the indwelling of the Holy Trinity in the human soul, by a French Dominican of the seventeenth century.

THE DYING AND LIVING LORD, by Helmut Gollwitzer (S.C.M. Press, 5s.). Fifteen sermons on chapters 22-24 of St Luke, originally preached

in Berlin in 1939-40 by the man who succeeded the imprisoned Martin Niemöller as pastor of Dahlem.

THE END OF A GOLDEN STRING, by Robert Nelson (Faith Press, 5s.), is written primarily for Anglicans, but its simple and practical advice on personal prayer would be useful to Christians of any denomination.

THE DOMINICANS, by John-Baptist Reeves, O.P. (Bloomsbury, 10s. 6d.). This stimulating account of the origin and spirit of the Order of Preachers is available again, after being out of print for some years.

SAINT JOAN, by Etienne Robo (Sands, 9s. 6d.). A revised and amplified version of Fr Robo's brief but authoritative life of the saint.

APPARITIONS OF OUR LADY, by Louis Lochet (Herder-Nelson, 15s.), is not another factual account, but a study of the place which the appearances of our Lady (especially those at Lourdes) have in the life of the Church. The French edition was reviewed in THE LIFE OF THE SPIRIT in April 1958.

GOD'S INFINITE MERCY, by Julian Chrosiecowski, M.I.C. (Bloomsbury, 12s. 6d.), presents theology in a dry academic way which will deter all but the most zealous.

THE VISIONS OF PIERS PLOWMAN (Sheed and Ward, 18s.) is a conflation of the three texts of the poem, rendered into modern English by Henry W. Wells, and first published in 1935.

SAINT JEROME, by Jean Steinmann (Geoffrey Chapman, 27s. 6d.), is a popular biography. A review of the French edition appeared in THE LIFE OF THE SPIRIT in March 1959.

Sheed and Ward have launched a new series of paper-backs called THE NEW ARK LIBRARY, which will consist mainly of reprints. The first four titles are now available and make a promising beginning: THE SPIRIT OF CATHOLICISM, by Karl Adam (6s.), is an excellent book on the Church; THE SECRET OF THE CURÉ D'ARS, by Henri Ghéon (6s.), first-class popular biography; and for those who like to do their spiritual reading from letters there are COLLECTED LETTERS OF ST THÉRÈSE OF LISIEUX and SPIRITUAL LETTERS OF DOM JOHN CHAPMAN (7s. each).

Collins have made three welcome additions to their series of Fontana books. WAITING ON GOD, by Simone Weil, includes some of her most important essays, as well as letters to Fr Perrin written as she was on the point of leaving France. THE EPISTLE OF PAUL TO THE ROMANS, by the great Protestant scholar C. H. Dodd, was first published in 1932 as part of *The Moffatt New Testament Commentary*. And finally, AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF A SAINT is the story of St Thérèse of Lisieux, translated from the critical text by the late Ronald Knox, and first published less than two years ago. These Fontana books are extraordinarily good value at 2s. 6d. each.