

POINT OF VIEW

THE IMITATION OF CHRIST: A NEW TRANSLATION by Edgar Daplyn.
(Sheed and Ward; 6s.)

SIR: May I write to you about this book and the review of it which you published last December? I have no quarrel with the review for anything that is the reviewer's own fault. He was led astray by a book which has no complete imprint and carries a misleading sub-title.

In consequence of these defects, your reviewer treats the translation as veritably 'a new translation' and assumes that it is subsequent to the translations (both published in 1952) 'of Abbot McCann (Burns and Oates) and Leo Shirley-Price (Penguin Classics).' But this it cannot be, for the simple reason that Edgar Daplyn died on August 16th, 1935.

It is true that Edgar Daplyn's translation was published posthumously; but even as a printed book it is prior to the two books just mentioned. I possess a copy of it which carries this imprint: 'First published 1949 by Latimer House Limited, 33 Ludgate Hill, London, E.C.4.'

I am not an expert bibliographer and cannot confidently determine what is the relation between the First Edition of 1949 and the volume (seemingly of 1955) which you reviewed. But I should be inclined to call the second book a re-issue or re-impression of the first. For the type is the same, and the two books agree exactly in their 'lay-out', having throughout an identical page-content.

The *Imitation* has been translated into English by a variety of translators, both Catholic and Protestant. But has it ever been translated before by a Unitarian minister? That is what Edgar Daplyn was, and he was a man much esteemed by his co-religionists. I wonder, would he be surprised if he learnt that his translation, in its latest issue, carries an *imprimatur*?

GERARD MOON