

NOTICES

THE HOUSEHOLD OF GOD, by Leslie Newbigin (S.C.M. Press; 12s. 6d.), contains the Kerr Lectures given in Glasgow in November, 1952. The author, originally a Presbyterian minister and now a Bishop in the Church of South India, discusses the nature of the Church, which, as he rightly points out, is the central question in the present ecumenical debate. The different answers to the question 'By what is the Church constituted?' are grouped under the headings Catholic, Protestant and Pentecostal, each answer being examined and shown to have a possible, even necessary, contribution to make to the final answer. The basic assumption of 'ecumenism' is taken for granted, viz., that the elements constituting the nature of the Church of Christ are no longer to be found realized in any one Communion but must be gathered together once more by means of some sort of 'pooling' of the resources and 'witness' on the part of the various 'Churches'. Whether or not one agrees with this assumption, the lectures can be read with interest and profit by all who would follow the progress of contemporary ecumenical discussion.

THE ALTAR FIRE, by Olive Wyon (S.C.M. Press; 7s. 6d.), is a truly ecumenical selection of writers, Catholic, Anglican, Lutheran, Congregationalist, and Eastern Orthodox. The passages have been chosen as helps to 'devotion', and indeed they could be and many of them have long been used as such, but they are juxtaposed in such a way as to give a misleading idea of an underlying doctrinal unity concerning the Eucharist which the writers themselves could not possibly have shared.

FR HILARY CARPENTER, O.P., in his introduction to Sister Mary Laurence's third volume of correspondence on the contemplative life—*They Live the Life* (Blackfriars; 2s. 6d.)—sums up its excellence: 'With her already recognized gift for setting out deep principles of the religious life in vivid, everyday language, Sr. M. Laurence here expounds the basic truths of the Christian life.' Each must live the life of Christ to the full in the cloister and out of it. This is the best of an excellent trio.

SANCTIFYING GRACE is the root or core of 'The Life' and yet it is perhaps the most neglected subject in sermons and spiritual literature. Fr Aegidius Doolan, O.P., has remedied this defect in a deep but readable and easily intelligible treatise—*Sanctifying Grace* (Mercier; 7s. 6d.)—which is thoroughly based on Scripture and on the exposition of St Thomas.

ALSO from Mercier comes a translation of Dr Paul Simon's *The Human Element in the Church of Christ* (7s. 6d.), which treats of a difficulty that so often crops up especially in explaining the Church to non-Catholics. And anyone who is tempted to criticize the clergy in high places and to expect them all to be completed saints should turn to this book.