

MOMENTS OF LIGHT. By Dom Hubert van Zeller, O.S.B. (Burns Oates and Washbourne; 7s.6d.)

FAMINE OF THE SPIRIT. By Dom Hubert van Zeller, O.S.B. (Burns Oates and Washbourne; 7s.6d.)

In these two companion volumes Fr Hubert van Zeller is concerned to encourage and foster perseverance in all who seek God earnestly and sincerely. Not a few, inspired by grace, make the initial surrender of their lives to God. Yet it would appear a number of such souls fail to continue in their undertaking. Why? Among other reasons, it may happen that failure is due to misunderstanding, ignorance, misdirection, timidity as well as, of course, to pride and egotism. Enthusiasm that was engendered by the first stirrings of grace gives place, and in a short while, to aridity. This marked contrast can often puzzle, as well as distress, those desirous of leading an interior life. Indeed it may even result in the devout soul rejecting and forswearing its resolutions. The weaning of man from himself, the rendering of the soul ever more docile and receptive to the unfolding of divine life, this is the necessary phase which must be undergone and endured by all who would make progress in the way of perfection.

In analysing this process of purification the author treats his subject by approaching it from many and different angles, giving to each a distinct paragraph or page. At first sight this approach might savour of a haphazard scheme, making for disunity and division: and so it would were the author not ever mindful of his central theme. By skilfully selecting his angles of approach, Dom Hubert has succeeded not only in dealing adequately with his subject, but has also been enabled to bring in much useful matter that otherwise would perforce have had to be omitted. In all that he writes the author brings discernment, knowledge, and, one would venture to add, experience. Compact and terse as are the chapters, they are never dull or dry. Solid doctrine and teaching there is in plenty, but not so served as to become indigestible. Would that all books on the spiritual life were equally instructive and helpful.

TERENCE NETHERWAY, O.P.

STONE AND THE CATHOLIC REVIVAL. By the Dominican Sisters. (Samuel Walker; 2s.)

By producing this pamphlet of which the interest and importance are out of all proportion to its size, the English Dominican Sisters have earned both our gratitude and congratulations. In fifty-two pages they have told the story of two of the greatest figures of the 'Second Spring' in a way which grips our interest while making it clear that the success of what they *did* flowed from and depended on what they were, i.e., saintly to such a degree that both are candidates for beatification.