

undertaken by Mother Mary Martin and her medical missionaries in Nigeria. He includes as well some beautiful stills of the film and a summary of the scenario. Apart from the intrinsic interest of the book as a technical document (Mr Buchanan gives the fullest details about cutting and dialogue and many other matters), it should do much to encourage the work of a modern congregation which employs all the resources of modern medicine within the traditional discipline of religious life. The book is an appropriate companion to the film, and both are admirable ambassadors for one of the great works of charity of our time.

I. E.

GLORIOUS THRESHOLD. A study of the Motherhood of the Blessed Virgin Mary. By Angela Verne. (Sands; 7s. 6d.)

This is a book of devotion founded on an absence of doctrine. A single example will show what is meant:

As He (Christ), the true temple of supernal grace, drew sustenance from her mystical motherhood and through her 'rational milk' and her pre-eminent love He grew and waxed strong in wisdom and grace with God and man, she, the Mother of Divine Grace, as typified in spirit by holy Mother Church, draws sustenance from his mystical body . . .' (p. 104).

If mystical motherhood means anything, Christ did not draw sustenance from it. 'Rational milk' makes sense in 1 Peter 2.2; here it makes none. It is heretical to attribute Christ's grace, or growth in grace, to Mary; and the context shows that grace is used in a theological sense. The last couple of lines makes no sense at all, unless by mystical body is meant the Blessed Sacrament, a confusion into which the author perhaps falls in an earlier passage (p. 50).

Without for a moment impugning the excellent intentions of the author, one may give one's opinion that such books do nothing but mislead the devout by their doctrinal muddle and to the undevout give a handle for scorn.

COLUMBA RYAN, O.P.

IMPERIAL MISSION. By Reinhold Schneider. Translated from the German by Walter Oden. (The Gresham Press, New York; \$3.00).

From a historical point of view, there are divergent opinions with regard to the wisdom of Las Casas's long struggle to gain freedom from Spanish territory for the natives of the West Indies and South America. *Imperial Mission*, though it envisages the story from one historical angle, transcends controversy in placing before the reader a wider combat, as old as the world, between God and Mammon. This book is far more than a beautifully told narrative, it is a challenge; and since knowledge is bought by experience, no one is better able to offer such a challenge than one who is already a victor