

work is of great importance for the history of heresy in the Middle Ages. The edition itself is praiseworthy, for the editors have made a brave attempt to produce something approaching the original text out of ten very tangled manuscripts. Here and there, however, a slip has been noticed: on p. 230 'CIII q. III' of the *Decretum* should be CXII q. III in both text and apparatus; the 'locus non repertus' of 'dicitur enim in legibus: vim vi repellere licet' is surely *Dig. vet. 9. 2, 46*.

LEONARD BOYLE, O.P.

THE MEANING OF LOVE. By Robert O. Johann, S.J. (Geoffrey Chapman; 16s.)

Father Johann, an American Jesuit, proposes, in this book, to give a correct metaphysical notion of love—something that he judges has not been previously done. He thinks that the key to a (philosophical) understanding of love lies 'in a synthesis of Thomist thought, as furnishing the metaphysical framework for a *philosophy* of intersubjectivity, with the insights of contemporaries into the *mystery* of intersubjectivity'. He addresses himself to his task with energy, vast erudition and a laudable effort at clear, non-technical expression. We are given seventy-one pages of text, forty-eight pages of references and notes and six pages of bibliography. The author has evidently mastered his material—ancient, medieval and modern—quite well. Granting him certain assumptions or philosophical interpretations, he has proved his point, or better, elucidated his synthesis.

However, for all the brilliance and depth of thought shown in the treatise, one wonders why it has been presented to the general reading public (if it is so presented). It would seem that only a reader who is well-versed in the content and terminology of both Aristotelian-Thomistic and modern metaphysics and who has a sound knowledge of Latin and French (not to mention Greek) would make much of the central thesis as explained. One has the impression that this is a well-wrought doctoral dissertation that somehow has strayed from the university archives into print and on to the shelves of booksellers.

The trained philosopher and/or theologian will perhaps find in this book some new light on the subject of love or at least a lucid re-examination of the traditional doctrine. But the general reader, in spite of the best efforts of Father Johann, will find it very heavy going, if, indeed, he has not foundered before he has finished the Introduction.

PETER CURRAN, O.P.

PETER'S BOAT. By Daphne D. C. Pochin Mould. (Clonmore and Reynolds; 12s. 6d.)

This book bears the sub-title, 'A Convert's Experience of Catholic Living'. It is all that—and something more. Since the author has lived

in Ireland for the past six years the book has a delightful Hibernian flavour. We are given some interesting descriptions of Ireland and of its mountains (mountain-climbing seems to be the hobby or avocation of Miss Pochin Mould) and of Irish places of pilgrimage, many of them little known outside the Emerald Isle. But all of this is rather an 'extra', a dividend. The main portion of the book deals with the author's attitudes and convictions, as a convert, to and concerning some of the essentials of the Catholic Church: its teaching authority, its sacraments, its liturgy, devotion to the Blessed Virgin, the Rosary, etc. Although a light, personalized touch is used, yet here is solid doctrine and evidence of a trained, scientific mind and a prayerful heart at work to produce satisfying reasons for the Faith that she now profitably practises. Recommended both to born Catholics and new converts, as well as to the sincere non-Catholic enquirer. PETER CURRAN, O.P.

A SHORT GUIDE TO ROME. By John Beighton. (Nicholas Kaye; 12s. 6d.)

This is one of the better brief guides to Rome that has appeared in recent years. The author has wisely avoided the impossible task of giving, within the compass of a small book, a complete description of infinitely varied Rome; he has left to the specialists the giving of learned disquisitions on Roman archaeology and architecture; he has even omitted the usual tourists' list of hotels, shops and restaurants. What Mr Beighton gives us is a clear picture of the essential topography of Rome and brief, discriminating descriptions of places to be visited: the principal monuments of the city, both ecclesiastical and secular. If one is the kind of tourist who wishes to have every foot of the way charted for him, this is not a book for him to buy. But if he prefers to be orientated intelligently and then left to discover the riches of Rome for himself (with the aid of some clearly-drawn, uncluttered sketch-maps), this Short Guide to the Eternal City should serve him well.

PETER CURRAN, O.P.

CAMBRIDGE AND ITS COLLEGES. By Edmund Vale. (Methuen: The Little Guides; 15s.)

The first edition of this useful and pocketable guide was prepared by Professor Hamilton Thompson and, having been six times reprinted it now appears in a completely rewritten form. Chapters on the old town and the growth of the university are followed by detailed accounts of all the colleges. The text is accurate and informative, and is illustrated by a large number of photographs. It is as well, perhaps, that Mr Vale has not felt obliged to include any examples of recent architecture, such as the deplorable new buildings at Emmanuel College. Of Churchill College, it seems we can hope for better things.

I.E.