

For Catholics

THIS list of recommended books for Catholic Lenten reading was drawn up by Reverend Francis Beauchesne Thornton, book editor of the *Catholic Digest*. Father Thornton's own new book, "Alexander Pope: Catholic Poet," deserves a place on such a list, so we have added it.

THE ASCENT TO TRUTH. By Thomas Merton. New York: Harcourt, Brace & Co. \$3.50.

THE LITTLE FLOWERS OF SAINT FRANCIS. By Saint Bonaventure. New York: E. P. Dutton & Co. \$1.45.

INUK. By Roger Bullard. New York: Farrar, Straus & Young. \$3.50.

BELLS ABOVE THE AMAZON. By Arthur J. Burks. New York: David McKay Co. \$3.50.

COLOR EBONY. By Helen C. Day. New York: Sheed & Ward. \$2.25.

MY RUSSIAN YESTERDAYS. By Catherine De Hueck. Milwaukee: Bruce Publishing Co. \$2.50.

THREE TO GET MARRIED. By (Bishop) Fulton J. Sheen. New York: Appleton-Century-Crofts. \$3.

BEYOND EAST AND WEST. By John C. H. Wu. New York: Sheed & Ward. \$3.50.

THE EXTERNALS OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH. By Rt. Rev. Msgr. John F. Sullivan, D.D. New York: P. J. Kenedy & Sons. \$4.50.

ALEXANDER POPE: CATHOLIC POET. By Francis Beauchesne Thornton. New York: Pellegrini & Cudahy. \$4.75.

GOD IN OUR DAILY LIFE. By Hilda C. Graef. Westminster, Md.: Newman Press. \$3.25.

EUGENIO PACELLI: POPE OF PEACE. By Oscar Halecki. New York: Farrar, Straus & Young. \$3.50.

LETTERS TO THE MARTYRS. By Helen Walker Homan. New York: David McKay Co. \$3.

I LIVE AGAIN. By Princess Ileana of Romania. New York: Rinehart & Co. \$4.

HOURLASS. By John W. Lynch. New York: Macmillan Co. \$2.

SAINTS FOR OUR TIMES. By Theodore Maynard. New York: Appleton-Century-Crofts. \$3.50.

THE PILLAR OF FIRE. By Karl Stern. New York: Harcourt, Brace & Co. \$3.50.

THE BETROTHED. By Alessandro Manzoni. Translated by Archibald Colquhoun. New York: E. P. Dutton Co. \$5.

THE EAR OF GOD. By Patrick J. Peyton. New York: Doubleday & Co. \$2.75.

THE GATES OF DANNEMORA. By John L. Bonn. New York: Doubleday & Co. \$3.

FATHER PAUL OF GRAYMOOR. By David Gannon. New York: Macmillan Co. \$4.

LIFE OF JESUS. By François Mauriac. Translated by Julie Kernan. New York: David McKay Co. \$3.

THE GREATEST CALLING. Edited by Rawley Myers. New York: Denis X. McMullen Co. \$2.25.

WHAT CATHOLICS BELIEVE. By Josef Pieper and Heinz Raskop. New York: Pantheon Books. \$2.

THE LONG LONELINESS. By Dorothy Day. New York: Harper & Bros. \$3.50.

BISHOP SHEIL AND THE CYO. By Roger L. Treat. New York: Julian Messner. \$3.

on exhortation and short on definite and specific counseling as to how spiritual aims are to be realized. Bishop Pardue is careful to spell out a suggested technique for Lenten self-examination and recreation. The theme of the book is based on the author's study of the use of the word "heart" in Scripture and in the Book of Common Prayer and calls upon Christians to "create and make new" contrite hearts. Bishop Pardue makes apt religious use of the insights of psychotherapy.

Protestant Thought

PROTESTANT THOUGHT IN THE TWENTIETH CENTURY: *Whence and Whither.* Edited by Arnold Nash. Macmillan. \$3.75. In recent decades the Protestant world has been caught in a maelstrom of seething ideas. "Neo-orthodoxy," "realism," "liberalism," "idealism," "humanism," "fundamentalism"—what are the issues at stake in these often conflicting ideas in philosophy, in theology, in Christian ethics, in Christian education? This symposium should help the confused Protestant to understand the background and appraise the validity of current theological trends. The thirteen contributors are outstanding scholars in their respective fields.

A PROTESTANT MANIFESTO. By Winifred E. Garrison. Abingdon-Cokesbury. \$2.75. This is no throwing down of the gauntlet to the non-Protestant world as the title might suggest. Rather it is an attempt to answer in clear and concise form three questions: What is Protestantism? What do Protestants affirm? What do they deny?

Dr. Garrison, the literary editor of *The Christian Century*, endeavors to answer these questions by giving the historical background of the main Protestant bodies, by pointing out what Protestantism has in common with other faiths and what positions may be said to be distinctively Protestant. He deals frankly with ideas and practices which he considers to be alien to the mind and spirit of Protestantism and with positions which Protestants must firmly reject. The book is not polemical in spirit but has the positive purpose of helping Protestants to know their own faith and its implications for living.

Towards an Intelligent Faith

A GUIDE TO THE CHRISTIAN FAITH. By William A. Spurrer. Scribner. \$2.50. The author declares that he is writing for "those who are at least

partially attracted by Christianity, but who have some serious doubts as to what the Christian faith really stands for, and whether it is really relevant to daily living." That takes in a lot of people.

Whether any half-believers and semi-skeptics will be attracted to this book or have their questions answered by it seems dubious. It is true, as the author maintains, that what we believe is important, for belief determines action. But of this the people he is endeavoring to reach remain unconvinced. As they shy away from doctrine, what is needed is not merely a clear exposition of the cardinal Christian doctrines such as is given in this admirable book, but a lucid explanation of how these doctrines affect daily living. The theologians are still far removed from the wistful pagans of our day.

THIS WE BELIEVE. By Eric Montizambert. Morehouse-Gorham. \$2. Here is a restatement of the traditional Christian faith without any flights into high theology and without any exploration of the many by-ways of Christianity which are so often confused with the main highway. The author is an Episcopal clergyman, but there is nothing denominational in his treatment of the major tenets of Christian belief—God, Christ, prayer, the Bible, the church. He knows the language of the modern intellectual and uses it.

SO WE BELIEVE, SO WE PRAY. By George A. Buttrick. Abingdon-Cokesbury. \$2.75. The theses of this book start from the experiences of a pastoral ministry and issue in great declarations of faith. When Dr. Buttrick discusses our belief in God, in Christ, in the Church, he is not theorizing but is expressing convictions that have met the test of modern life. A large part of the book is concerned with prayer and with the fundamental Christian convictions that make prayer possible and vital. This is brought home by an examination of the petitions of the Lord's Prayer—what is meant and what implied when we say those almost over-familiar words?

Religious Biography

SAINTS FOR OUR TIMES. By Theodore Maynard. Appleton-Century-Crofts. \$3.75. Here is a collection of brief sketches of the life and work of eighteen men and women who have been canonized by the Church, written by one of the leading living Catholic historians.

There is particular interest in those whose names are not too well known,

for we have been made reasonably familiar with Sts. Francis of Assisi, Thomas Aquinas, Ignatius Loyola, Francis de Sales, Vincent de Paul, Mary Bernard Soubirous (Bernadette), and Therese of Liseux ("The Little Flower"). Equally fascinating material is presented here about the life and work of St. Isaac Jogues, the Jesuit missionary to the Indians; St. John Mary Vianney, the champion of the peasants; St. John Bosco, noted for his work with boys, and St. Francis Xavier Cabrini, better known as Mother Cabrini, the first American citizen to be canonized.

One can't help wishing that Dr. Maynard, with his real gift for interesting writing, had fulfilled more adequately the promise of the title and pointed out at greater length the significance of these saintly personages for our own times.

A JOURNEY WITH THE SAINTS. By Thomas S. Kepler. World. \$2. More directly beamed at contemporary life are these forty thumbnail sketches of saints ancient and modern. They were written originally for a metropolitan newspaper, and the author, a Protestant theologian, uses them as the basis of an appeal for sainthood today. For the modern world needs their extraordinary perception of goodness, their imitation of Christ, their practice of the presence of God.

The saints whose lives are but briefly sketched range from Cyprian and Augustine to Thomas More and Martin Luther. Brother Lawrence, John Wesley, Rufus Jones, Albert Schweitzer, and Kagawa are included alongside of medieval saints long since canonized.

FRANCOIS DE FENELON. By Katherine Day Little. Harper. \$3.50. Fénelon is one of the great souls of the Church, who is just now gaining due recognition. His writings, recently published under the title "Christian Perfection," are taking their place among the devotional classics.

In this book the author aims to reveal the personality of Fénelon. To accomplish that there is given in broad outline a picture of the times of Louis XIV—the court life and its political intrigue, the controversy over the treatment of the Huguenots and over temporal power and Quietism. One wonders that out of such times could come such an apostle of peace and quietude.

FOUR PROPHETS OF OUR DESTINY. By William Huffner. Macmillan. \$2.75. Kierkegaard, Dostoevsky, Nietzsche, and Kafka—these are the four prophets studied in this book. Each has a message for our times as he had

for his own. All four are interrelated, influencing each other and also shaping the thinking of the present generation. All were alike in challenging the comfortable, complacent philosophy of the middle-class European and the inefficacy of a church which was so intimately tied up with the state and so remote from the needs and aspirations of the common people.

Kierkegaard and Dostoevsky have been hailed as antecedents by both existentialist philosophers and neo-orthodox theologians. Nietzsche was claimed as the philosopher of Nazism.

Because they must be reckoned with by present day thinkers, this not too technical presentation of their views is most welcome.

FATHER PAUL OF GRAYMOOR. By David Gannon. Macmillan. \$4. This is an absorbing tale of an interesting and controversial figure in American church life during the early years of this century.

Lewis Wattson was a leader in the extreme Anglican wing of the Episcopal Church. His agitation for reunion with Rome was so insistent that many of his fellow churchmen breathed a sigh of relief when he went over to Rome. Since taking that step, he has become widely known and greatly loved as "Father Paul." He made Graymoor a great center of educational and welfare work, a haven for the homeless and friendless. He became a great champion of Catholic foreign missions.

At the same time he never lost his early zeal for the reunion of Christendom, being the founder of the Church Unity Octave, a concentrated period of prayer for Christianity which is used by the Catholic Church as a means of converting non-Catholics.

BISHOP SHEIL AND THE C.Y.O. By Roger L. Treat. Messner. \$3. It is not often that a nationally known sports writer publishes an appreciative study of the life and work of a Roman Catholic Bishop. But Bishop Sheil is an unusual type of ecclesiastic, worthy of the distinction.

In his early experience as a prison chaplain Bishop Sheil was appalled at the end result of juvenile delinquency and crime as he saw it in imprisoned boys and those whom he accompanied to the death chamber. He made up his mind to do something to combat delinquency by providing the youth of Chicago with a healthy outlet for their energies. Hence his promotion of amateur boxing tournaments (this is where the author comes in), the organization of the Catholic Youth Organization, the founding of homes for the homeless, a school for workers,



Charles Francis Potter—"a fighter."

and an incessant battle against discrimination, exploitation, and intolerance.

The story is breezily told, but the Bishop is a breezy individual, and his life story needs to be told in this fashion to get people to appreciate that clergymen are not all stuffed shirts and that the church can and often does reach down and meet the real issues of life.

THE PREACHER AND I. By Charles Francis Potter. Crown. \$4. Dr. Potter has been much in the headlines over the past thirty years, for he has never been one to hide his light under a bushel. This is his autobiography. It is the story of his spiritual pilgrimage from the orthodox Baptist church in which he was brought up to Unitarianism, then to Universalism, and finally to the First Humanist Society, of which he is the founder and head. Dr. Potter is able, a clear thinker and convincing speaker. He is also a fighter. Best remembered will be his debates with Dr. John Roach Straton, the fundamentalist leader, and his part in the Scopes trial at Dayton, Tennessee. These two incidents are given full coverage in his memoirs, as are his minor skirmishes with other religious leaders. His interest in psychotherapy and telepathy constitute the latest phase in the religious development of this colorful personality. The author's comments on the passing religious scene are interesting, although for the most part he proceeds on the assumption that everything that happened to him will be of interest to everyone else.

THE GREATEST BOOK EVER WRITTEN. By Fulton Oursler. Doubleday. \$3. This retelling of the Old Testament