

BOOK REVIEWS

GROWING TO MATURITY. By Dorothy M. Berridge, S.H.C.J. London: Burns and Oates, 1969. pp. 172.

A psychologist and philosopher, Sister Dorothy brings her experience plus professional training to a work that can be easily understood by the average parent, teacher, and those engaged in caring for children from birth until late-adolescence.

This book can indeed aid those whose task it is to help forward the child's growth to maturity in his moral development specially. It is up-to-date as it fits the present needs of our children growing up in such a complex changing society like ours.

Sister Dorothy has based this on a number of experimental studies of children in England but since it is written for the normal child from a normal Catholic family and not the exceptional child, it can be of great use to educators, parents, and others whose interest lies in educating this type of child for today where the problem of plain indifference to a personal God and His Divine Providence is becoming more and more the threat of Religion in the latter part of this twentieth century—a dark menace actually new to the Church.

The whole development cycle of the child from birth to adulthood is nicely treated as a growth of "becoming" and always treated from the practical Christian conception in this historical stage of social and cultural transformation.

If, as stated, society gets the type of adolescent it deserves, creates, and even needs, Sister Dorothy's work can do much to help us who are preparing the future adults of this changing technological age.

● **Fr. Gratian Murray**

THE APOSTOLIC LIFE: by M. H. Vicaire, O.P. The Priority Press.

A lifetime of study devoted to the origins of the first "apostolic religious orders" especially the Order of Preachers, led the author to an inquiry concerning the meaning of the term "apostolic," and the notion of apostolic life as it developed in the history of the Church. Since the apostles are the ideal Christians, the imitation of the apostles has always been looked upon as the fulness of perfection of Christian life.

But how does one imitate the apostles? In their life of prayer? Their poverty? Their preaching? The author shows in this dispassionate, neatly documented historical essay how the notion of the apostolic life developed. As Mgr. Fitzgerald notes in his Preface: "It is very useful and very important

for modern Catholics, lay people as well as priests and religious, called so forcefully by Vatican II to carry on the apostolate, to understand what the apostolate has always meant to the followers of Jesus Christ."

The author has no axe to grind, no theory to propose; he merely sets down what the Christians of the past have understood by the apostolate. The root of the idea is in the Scriptures, but it is no better commentary on Scripture than the life of the Church. Here is a record of that commentary on the apostolic life.

STEP BEYOND IMPASSE: (A chronicle of the Dutch Church) Edited by Lucien Roy and Forrest Ingram, New Press.

Here is for the first time in the complete, carefully documented story of six months in the history of the Dutch Church.

Here are the events that sharply focussed the whole drama of the turbulent modern Church.

This is the story of the "student ecclesia" of Amsterdam and the men of good will who have confronted each other and the whole Church with the most demanding questions faced by today's Catholicism.

It begins with the decision of a priest to marry and his announced desire to remain a priest in the student chaplaincy.

From this moment on the questions grow deeper and more perplexing. Is there room in the Church for such pluriformity? Can the Church accept and integrate this man and his problem into its life of faith? What is the Church and where is this Church to which we "belong?"

What is the basis of its unity?

These are some of the questions that brought into dialogue and confrontation some of today's most thoughtful Catholic Christians — men like Huub Oosterhuis, the Dutch priest-poet; Father Arrupe, superior general of the Jesuits; and Cardinal Alfrink.

This book is their story.

And their story is a challenge to Catholic Christians everywhere.

WHAT CATHOLICS BELIEVE TODAY: by Mgr. Paul Poupard, Dimension Book.

What is it that distinguishes the Catholic from other men of our time? And what is it that distinguishes the Catholics today from Catholics of other generations?

Mgr. Poupard answers these questions by presenting a vital, inspired summary of the Catholic faith which derives from the Creed and which in substance transcends the changes and variations of any epoch, and also by describing the new ideas and new emphases which come about since Vatican II.

The work is admirably suited to the needs of every priest, religious, and layman. It is solidly rooted in Biblical texts, in the liturgy, and in the very phrases of conciliar documents. It can be read through at one sitting, or the reader may return to it or to any part of it, thanks to a detailed index, and find in it thoughts which penetrate the problems of daily life and constitute a small Catholic library for contemporary man.

Of special concern to the author is the missionary and the social dimension of Catholicism. "The world is the field where the testimony of their love unfolds. Nothing that is human leaves them indifferent." But great stress is also laid on the personal life of every Catholic, to the great fundamental problems of happiness and suffering and individual development. One special feature of the book is its emphasis on Catholic humanism. Catholics, the author writes, cannot retreat to a timid and idle ghetto, nor can they dilute their convictions to the extent of almost making them evaporate. "Through his loyalty to Christ, his joyful adherence to the Church, and the radiant enthusiasm of his participation in Christian life, he is the authentic witness to the good news."

THE VATICAN AND WORLD PEACE

The Vatican and World Peace, a short volume recently published in Great Britain, is an attempt at a long-range view of the role of the Popes in World Peace. The book, a collection of opinions of some of today's leading thinkers: two clergymen, a historian, a political figure, an editor, is the published result of a symposium held at Boston College two years ago.

The collection of essays opens with a famous quotation from Pope Paul VI's speech before the United Nations on the 4th of October, 1965: "No more wars, war never again! Peace, it is peace that must guide the destiny of peoples and of all humanity." The question, of course, is just how great a role in world peace can the Vatican really play?

The reader gets a careful and proportioned view of the meaning of that role and an analysis of its effectiveness in today's world. Any person that follows, even sporadically, the Pope's words knows that the Holy Father has world peace as one of his major topics and that this theme is rarely absent from his important messages.

In the meantime war rages on, spreads and escalates. What real sway do the words of religious leader have on these events that sometimes seem even to be out of control of the great military powers of the day?

According to the Papal Nuncio to Belgium and Luxembourg, Mons, Igino Cardinale, whose opinion takes up a good part of the book, the Holy See has three spheres of action: political, socio-economic and religious. Peace is worked for along three channels: diplomacy, development and ecumenism. The Holy See can be understood as a force working day after day in a patient search for the right means to peace. Mons. Cardinale emphasizes the fact that in a

relatively short amount of time the Holy See has been able to project itself as a peace-maker on the world level.

Another contributor to the symposium is Eugene V. Rostow who served as Undersecretary of State in the Johnson Administration. Mr. Rostow underlines the tradition behind the Church's role as conciliator from the far off days of feudalism down to the nationalistic and idealistic violence of our times. Mr. Rostow, too, affirms Mons. Cardinale's feeling that the prestige that the Church holds today in these matters is greater than it has even been before, and goes further in saying that the activities carried out by the Papacy as a spiritual authority in favour of peace and development, and the various diplomatic initiatives taken by the Vatican represent only a minute portion of the Church's real influence, as a living community of priests and laity, on the moral *formation* of the Western World.

It is Arnold J. Toynbee's opinion, stemming from a detailed study of the world affairs in which the Church played a part in the last centuries, that the Holy See's moral prestige on an international level beyond that of a religious confession, is very much due to the position it has taken in recent years as a promoter of ecumenism. This, he shows, is a concrete move towards peace among Christians, since "charity begins at home."

It has been the Pope's intention to bring peace to the hearts of men, not only Catholics, or Christians, but to all men. Toynbee feels that man's response has been warm acceptance of this. He points out, in particular, the ovation that the Pope received at the Airport of Amman upon his arrival in the Holy Land in 1964, in spite of the fact that 90 per cent of the population were Moslems; and the reception given the Pope in Bombay in 1965 in a country with a population more than 90 per cent Hindu. Toynbee observes that Pope Paul VI's feelings toward non-Catholics and non-Christians has been answered by similar sentiments on the part of millions and millions of these same people; he sees the Pope as having the world as his parish and the entire human race as his flock.

The 130 page volume of *The Vatican and World Peace* also includes articles by Mons. John Gregory Clancy, Father Robert A. Graham, S.J. and Norman Cousins, editor of the *Saturday Review*.

Book Received

DICTIONNAIRE DE SPIRITUALITE Ascétique et Mystique, Doctrine et Histoire, fascicules XLVI-XLVII (Hoehn-Hypocrisie). Fondé par M. Viller, F. Cavallera, J. De Guibert, S.J., continué par André Rayez et Charles Baumgartner, S.J., assistés de Michel Olphe-Gallard, S.J., avec le concours d'un grand nombres de collaborateurs. Beauchesne, Paris, 1969. Pp. 578-1215.