

FAITH AND CONTEMPLATION. By René Voillaume. Darton, Longman & Todd, 1974. 120 pp. 80p.

CHRIST IS PASSING BY. By Josemaria Escriva de Balaguer. Veritas Publications: Dublin, 1974. 250 pp. £4 cloth, £1.95 paper.

YOU HE MADE ALIVE. By Peter Hocken. Darton, Longman & Todd, 1974. 126 pp. £1.

Of these three Roman Catholic works, only one was written to be read, the others were written as sermons and retreat addresses. The talks in René Voillaume's *Faith and Contemplation* were first given at a retreat for lay people, trying to live in the world according to the ideals of Charles de Foucauld. Currently these ideals have a strong appeal, and Voillaume is their best known spokesman. He considers modern man at some length and remarks amongst his salient characteristics his concern for freedom, his orientation towards the future and his tendency towards universality. His relation of these fairly routine observations to Christian spirituality is convincing and his plea for simplicity of style in the apostolic mission carries weight.

The sermon is a peculiar medium, which is why those who have to preach ought to read more sermons than they often do. These sermons *Christ is Passing By* by Escriva de Balaguer speak plainly of God and are informed by a deep devotion, but their style, while quite direct, will be neither a familiar nor an easy one for English readers without experience of the Roman Catholic homily.

*You He Made Alive* is by a Roman Catholic priest influenced by the charismatic movement. It is at once a most refreshing and balanced book, quite short, but full of sane and stimulating perception. The relations between fixed and free, liturgical and private prayer are examined together with the fears and anxieties peculiar to each. Odd sentences convey the Scriptural tone of the whole book: "The Bible helps us to get our tenses right in prayer; we learn the balance between 'the Lord has done it', 'the Lord is doing it' and 'the Lord will do it'"; "Because praise is just rejoicing in God, it is of no earthly use. This is not a reason for criticizing it, but a reason for doing it!" and "The prayer of praise is inherently extravagant - for that is what God is like!"

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IDEAS OF ORDER: The mid-nineteenth century renewal of Anglican theological method. By Hamish F. G. Swanston. Van Gorcum, 1974. 244 pp. 38.50 Dfl.

Hampden, Mansel, Maurice and Jowett all show a "willingness to accept contemporary terms for theological discussion", to help men seek an idea of order for their lives, and all react, in one way or another, to Butler, though hardly anything else connects them. There is nothing startling on Mansel or Maurice, but Dr Swanston gives a thorough