

## A NEW SPIRITUAL CLASSIC

*The Way.* By JOSEPH MARY ESCRIVÁ. Mercier Press. 15s.

This is the first edition in English of a book published in 1939 which has already sold one hundred thousand copies and is still a best-seller. Indeed, *Camino* has long been a by-word in Spain and has exercised a very remarkable effect especially on the youth of the country. Its author, Mgr. Escrivá, is the founder of the *Opus Dei*, one of the most thriving of the Secular Institutes which received its final approval from Rome in 1950. It is well known how important a part his work has played especially in the intellectual apostolate. Indeed, it has been compared on account of its influence to the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius. The technique is simple and direct. Under forty-six different headings such as Character, Purity, Mortification, Prayer, Tribulation, Spiritual Childhood, the Apostolate, there are almost a thousand maxims. It would be easy from a superficial glance to dismiss the whole thing as trivial. Results have shown, however, that this would be a great mistake: for the book is a challenge to meditation and a stimulus to prayer. It is indeed a new kind of spiritual classic.

Although written primarily for intelligent youth, *The Way* is suited to all classes and types. It has taught vast numbers to think and to pray almost without realizing it, and its special value is in starting people off.

GORDON WHEELER.