New Blackfriars

A Monthly Review July 1971 25p

Women in the Gospels
Irene Brennan

Women and the Liberation of Men
Tove Reventlow

From Priesthood to Marriage
Andrew Bebb

From Adenauer to Brandt: Church and State in Western Germany
Michael Lomax

The Function of Criticism and Theology
Phil Beisly

The Manifestation of Baptism
Simon Tugwell, O.P.

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In this issue

Irene Brennan

points out that the part played by women in the Gospels, which we often take for granted as normal, was, when seen against the social and religious background of the time, highly unusual and marked a conscious and radical change in attitude towards women.

Tove Reventlow

is concerned lest the liberation of women should be side-tracked into yet another form of surrender to masculine values. 'She must find a mode of life which really is her own . . . she can share man's world but not his domination . . . the binary experience may be at the very root of our capacity to create a symbolic structure; a structure which enables us to bestow order and meaning, to make us human in fact.'

Andrew Bebb

who recently left the priesthood and got married, gives an account of the 'conversion' and rediscovery of Christianity that this involved.

Michael Lomax

of Selwyn College, Cambridge, discusses the changing relationship between Church and State in West Germany. The influence which, in practice, the authorities of the Roman Catholic Church exerted over the old Christian Democrat administration has been weakened but at the same time the Social Democrats have lost a good deal of their old anti-clericalism.

Phil Beisly

also at Cambridge, warns against reducing the tradition of faith simply to doctrinal or theological terms. There is something here more like a literary tradition and we need to call upon the disciplines of the literary critic to help us to respond sensitively and intelligently to the Bible and the liturgy. 'The Christian act of faith is the belief in the intrinsic authoritativeness and creative power of the works which are central to that tradition—for that is what adhering to the tradition means. It is analogous to the belief in the greatness of a literary work and the stature of its author.'

Simon Tugwell, O.P.

asks what difference we should expect our baptism to have made to our lives and what it is that inhibits this effect. It is not enough simply to say that our sin obscures the effects of baptism; we are 'concerned not just with morality but with profound psychological processes and upheavals'.

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Adrian Edwards, C.S.Sp.: Thomas Fawcett on Symbolism and Religion.

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Brian Wicker: Cambridge essays in Ethics.

Terry Eagleton: Essays on the Brontës.

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Evolution in Religion

A Study in Sri Aurobindo and Pierre Teilhard de Chardin

R. C. Zaehner

This book is a comparative study of Teilhard de Chardin and Sri Aurobindo, both of whom approach their own religion, Catholicism in the one case and Hinduism in the other, from the point of view of evolution. Professor Zaehner applies Teilhard's idea of the 'spiritualization of matter' to the biblical narrative while developing his theme in accordance with Hindu ideas as expounded by Aurobindo. £1.90

Precept and Practice

Traditional Buddhism in the Rural Highlands of Ceylon

R. F. Gombrich

Buddhism is better known as a set of doctrines than as a real working system. The author suggests that early writers misunderstood the behavioural implications of canonical doctrine and that anthropologists who wish to explain religious behaviour ignore textual tradition at their peril. He concludes that in Central Ceylon Buddhist theory has changed little, and that both the changes and certain gaps between theory and practice can be explained as unintended consequences of Buddhism's original doctrines. £4

The Russian Orthodox Church Underground 1917-1970

William C. Fletcher

At times when the State was particularly active in its opposition to the Church in Russia, members of the Orthodox Church formed illegal Church groups and carried on their worship in secret. Even when the Orthodox Church came to accept the political régime, opposition movements formed round the Clergy who refused to compromise with the State. Dr Fletcher's history of these underground groups uses new Russian sources and makes possible a more accurate assessment of the situation. £3.75

Athanasius

Contra Gentes and *de Incarnatione*

Edited by
R. W. Thomson

One of the most interesting features of this double work is that two recensions are known. In this edition the English translation is of the 'long', authentically Athanasian, recension, and the variants of the 'short' (unauthentic) version have been indicated in a special apparatus to the Greek text. The editor places the work in its historical and theological contexts, and elucidates some of the motives which led to the various later revisions of the original text. 2 text-figures £3.25 *Oxford Early Christian Texts*

Oxford University Press

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NEXT MONTH IN NEW BLACKFRIARS

THE QUESTION OF EUTHANASIA

debated by

The Revd. Dr Hugh Trowell
chairman of the British Medical Association's Special Panel on Euthanasia.

The Revd. Benjamin Downing
chairman of the Voluntary Euthanasia Society

Fr Herbert McCabe, O.P.

Also articles on South Africa and Haiti

a new poem by Elizabeth Jennings

John Mahoney, S. J., on pain and Simon Tugwell, O.P., on the gift of tongues

and a variety of other things.

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