

HEAVENWARD BOUND. A child's book of the Catholic Religion. By E. T. W. Branscombe. Drawings by Clare Dawson. (The Pax House; 7s. 6d.)

One cannot praise too highly the literary skill, religious zeal and psychological insight which have so successfully combined into one interesting, illuminating whole an explanatory doctrinal catechism and a course of instruction for the living of the Christian life. A profusion of apt illustration, both verbal and pictorial, has been pressed into service. The special virtue of this book lies in the 'just-rightness' of its appeal to youth. The boys and girls for whom it is written will, with some slight initial help from a trusted grown-up, find it a sure and friendly guide for life's journey—to many it will become a treasured *Vade-Mecum*.

Unfortunately, we cannot endorse the author's choice of sub-title: 'A child's book of the Catholic Religion.' The acceptance of almost every Catholic doctrine, the spirit of reverence, the unreserved adoption of Catholic practices and prayers, so evident throughout its pages, do not suffice to make the book Catholic. The author himself, in defining *The Church* (p. 48), disclaims—perhaps unconsciously—membership of the Divinely instituted Society constituted under one visible head. If, however, this book cannot be adopted for use among Catholic children, there is much in its manner, method, and complete adaptability to its purpose which might inspire a Catholic teacher to the imitation of so fine an achievement.

S.N.D.

NOTICES

SOME MYSTERIES OF JESUS CHRIST. By Vincent McNabb, O.P. (Burns Oates; 2s. 6d.)

There are fewer than sixty pages in this book, but almost every sentence is provocative of thought. It would seem that it is made up of selections from Father Vincent's note-books. It is clear that his wisdom was learnt at the foot of his crucifix; it was there that he learnt his principle of life: 'All man's life should be work, or preparation for work. And all man's work should be, not for himself, but for others.' It is the lesson that he teaches us, not only in his book, but also in his life.

B.B.

... TO ONE OF THESE MY LEAST BRETHREN. By Charles K. Murphy. (The Forum Press, Cork; 6d.)

A forceful pamphlet which should be read by all priests and laymen who desire to raise 'Catholic Action' in the parish to a spiritual level and to keep it from flagging. The idea of 'Vocation' and its