

**THE STORY OF JESUS** by M. Thekaekara, S.J. pp. 56. The Little Flower Press, Calcutta, 1947. Price Rs. 2.

Children are always attracted by the personality of Christ. Their tender, loving hearts are drawn to that mystery of love that Jesus is. "For, theirs is the kingdom of heaven." The person of Jesus, so adorable and yet so charming, His deeds of love, His words of tenderness, all touch the very heart-strings of every child, for He is to them a living, throbbing and loving Friend, "whose delights are to be with the children of men."

Rev. Fr. M. Thekaekara, S.J., despite his scientific lore and his flair for writing books and articles on learned topics has stooped to attend to the needs of the little friends of Jesus. Wherever his **STORY OF JESUS** goes, it will be welcomed by children and treasured by them. This

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The book is neatly printed and would make an excellent gift for children.

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*M. of M.'s M. Aug 15, 1947*

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## FROM OUR BOOKSHELF

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■ **AURELIA** — A Companion Volume to Wiseman's **FABIOLA**. By M. Quinton. *The Catholic Book Crusade, St. Xavier's, Patna, 1946.* Pp. 518. Price Rs. 5/-.

This book unfolds before us an era which marked the climax of the grandeur that was Rome. The plot turns round the inhuman persecutions of the early Christians and the feverish activities of the imperial Caesars and their hirelings to strangle a Church struggling to be born. But Christianity sounded the death-knell of decadent Rome. We see in the book a "double and living image of Rome! of the old Rome dying with her brow crowned with flowers; of the young Rome entering life amid suffering and desolation!" The blood of martyrs is the seed of Christianity. Like Wiseman's **FABIOLA** this book unravels to a great extent the mysteries of the past and brings to the surface perhaps more than what pick and spade have yet done! But these "historical treasures", which are of interest to the student of antiquity are not its only highlights. Written in the dramatic form of a narrative, **AURELIA** excels by the vividness of its descriptions, the wealth of its imagery and the predominance of its "local colour". It is interesting, edifying and inspiring. — Mr. R. M. CARDOSO.

■ **FOUNDATIONS FOR A DEVOTION TO THE BLESSED TRINITY.** By G. M. Dupont, S.J. Pp. 202. *The Oriental Institute, 146 Bow Bazar St., Calcutta, 1947.* Price Rs. 4/12 or Rs. 6/-.

How grateful we should be to the author of this spiritual book, whose aim is "to try and show that the mysteries of creation and sanctification are intimately linked up with the mystery of the Blessed Trinity". From this point of view Fr. Dupont makes good his aim. Perhaps the best chapter in this treatise is the one entitled "Life". Spiritual directors and souls aspiring to perfection will find in it ample scope to develop in themselves and in others ever more and more the supernatural life. Whatever be the speculations and controversies that surround the doctrinal exposition of this profound mystery of the "Father, Son and Holy Ghost", the book fosters devotion to the love-locked Three. — FORTUNATO COUTINHO, S.J.

■ **THE CROSS & THE CRISIS.** By Fulton J. Sheen. *Reprint of the Catholic Book Crusade, St. Xavier's, Patna, 1946.* Pp. 172. Price Rs. 3/-.

The message of Christianity to the world is an offer of life or death. Christ comes as a Saviour to those who accept His word and as a Judge to those who turn from Him. The fatal results of the decision for or against Christ are written in the pages of the history of the world. This is the background against which we have to see the vision of **THE CROSS & THE CRISIS**. It is a paraphrase of the parable of the prodigal son and it shows in a convincing way that only Christianity offers to the modern world the possibility of surviving. The western world has left its father's house — the Christian unity — and has squandered the treasures of its spiritual inheritance. It now passes through the decisive hours in which it has to choose between being definitely enslaved by the materialism of a communistic world or returning to its father's house. We ought to see the Indian crisis as part of the world crisis. The struggle of Christianity to assert, consolidate and expand itself in India is not only a question of saving individual souls but of the welfare of a nation and the renovation of its culture. We should be grateful to the Catholic Book Crusade for having given us this reprint of Fr. Sheen's book. Being a reprint, some of the facts referred to in it belong to the past. But the value of the book is in no way impaired by this. The modern world has to choose between materialistic Communism and the Catholic Church. — J. NEUNER, S.J.

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