

In Brief

DO MIRACLES EXIST? Jan de Vries

Mainstream Publishing, Edinburgh 1986 127pp. £3.95

ISBN 1 85158 030 1

This is an interesting little book by a Dutch doctor working apparently in Scotland and practising alternative medicine of various kinds. It consists largely of anecdotes, some remarkable and some less so, strung together in a rather loose way. Its style is simple, and one is often left wondering what conclusion is being suggested. There are some serious warnings about dabbling with the occult. It seems strange that it should have been awarded the Dag Hammarskjöld award (unless that is a reference to the author and not to this book). The unusual title in no sense indicates a contribution to the debate on miracles.

Wantage, Oxon

DOUGLAS SPANNER

A NEW EUSEBIUS J. Stevenson

New Edition Revised by **W.H.C. Frend**

S.P.C.K., London 1987 404pp. £12.50 pb.

ISBN 0 281 04268 3

Almost everyone who has studied Theology in the past thirty years has possessed or at least used Stevenson's 'A New Eusebius'. We are now further indebted to Dr. Frend for a careful revision into which he has incorporated a number of fresh documents enabling, for example, the Gnostic movement to be better understood. The whole has been re-ordered and will therefore be easier to use. Its publication is a cause for thanksgiving.

34 Milner Street, London SW3

JOHN PEARCE

THE INCORRUPTIBLE CHURCH Ed. Beverley James Pyke

Gothic House 95pp. £5 hb.

ISBN 1 870 448 006

£3 pb.

ISBN 1 870 448 014

Collections of essays are rarely satisfactory and this must especially be true of a volume which includes 21 essays in 95 pages.

Some of these contributions are strident, some are tetchy, some are simply thin. On the other hand there are others of the first importance and, for them, this is a book to read. It is intended as a re-affirmation of the true Church of England, standing against innovation and humanism. The writers include supporters of the Anglican Campaign, the Prayer Book Society, 'Parson and Parish', the Anglican Society, the Christian Affirmation Campaign and the Church of England in South Africa.

Among the contributions there is Enoch Powell's memorable lecture on 'A National Church' delivered at St. Lawrence Jewry, and Basil Watson's essay on 'Patronage'. Both are required reading.

Bernard Smith's article on 'Church Schools in a Multi-Faith Society' is a marvel of succinct writing but there is a book yet to be written on that subject and we must hope that Mr. Smith will tackle it.

34 Milner Street, London SW3

JOHN PEARCE

THE WINNING CHURCH Church Growth Evangelism for Today**Roland E. Griswold**

Scripture Press, Amersham 1987 153pp. £2.50

ISBN 0 946515 19 0

The author is a Pastor in the Advent Christian Churches in the U.S.A. and states that the aim of his book is to offer ideas to the local church to help develop its evangelism strategy. Each chapter follows a basic plan of Introduction, Bible Base, Implication and Application. The first four chapters deal with the theme of Church Growth and the discovery of Gifts within the church. The succeeding chapters do not appear to follow any particular pattern and discuss such themes as the need to know your neighbourhood, the priority and strategies of evangelism and the need for discipleship training. One cannot help but be challenged by the author's enthusiasm for evangelism, and by the way in which he asks the most disconcerting questions. Despite all this, one must ask if yet another book on evangelism is necessary especially when some of our British authors have done a rather more thorough job.

London Bible College, Green Lane, Northwood, Middlesex

JACK RAMSBOTTOM

WARNOCK REPORT—A Critique by C.A.R.E. Ed. C.A.R.E. Committee

Care Trust, London 1986 21pp. 15p.

This is a good summary of the Warnock Report with a clear explanation of some of the failings and deficiencies of it. However some of these deficiencies are also found in C.A.R.E.'s arguments, e.g. its appeal to the emotions with its description of the developing foetus; also its failure to indicate that the abortion law puts a legal view of the embryo as having less than human rights.

The argument for the embryo being fully human from fertilisation, with full human rights is well put by C.A.R.E. but is spoilt by hardly mentioning the main objections raised to this, e.g. 'natural wastage' which is thought to be quite a high percentage; and the passage on miscarriages in Exodus 21.

2 The Lowlands, Hailsham, East Sussex

JOHN CHAPLIN

TEST TUBE BABIES Thomas Torrance

Scottish Academic Trust, Edinburgh 1986 12p.

At times confusing and difficult to follow but when finally understood, gives an interesting and fuller view on both the scientific and spiritual/moral fundamentals of this issue, without developing them into the cut and thrust of the disputed areas. It is dealing more with the Warnock Report's failure to find these fundamentals than about test-tube babies.

2 The Lowlands, Hailsham, East Sussex

JOHN CHAPLIN

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Other Books Received

- Banner of Truth**, S. Charnock, *The Complete Works Vol. III.* 1986, £9.95;
T. Manton, *A Commentary on James.* 1983, £6.95
- Harvestime**, P. Burns, *Don't Call Me Chicken.* 1987, £1.95
- Hodder & Stoughton**, P. Barnett, *Is the New Testament History?* 1986, £2.25;
M. Griffiths, *Down to Earth God.* 1985, £1.75; K. Lawson, *The Soldier's
Armoury: A Bible Reading Plan with Daily Commentary.* 1986, £1.25
- Kingsway**, J. Eddison, *The Last Lap.* 1986, £2.25
- Lion International** K. Okeke, *Made for Love: Marriage as it was meant to be.*
1986, £2.95
- Marc Europe**, E. Goldsmith, *Getting There From Here: Mission Possible.* 1986,
£1.95; G. MacDonald, *Living at High Noon: The Drama of Mid Life.* 1985,
£2.50
- A.R. Mowbray**, G. Appleton, *Understanding the Psalms.* 1987, £2.95;
E.H. Patey, *Becoming an Anglican: An Adult Confirmation Study Course.*
1985, £1.95
- Victor Books**, W.W. Wiersbe, *Colossians: Be Complete: Ephesians: Be Rich.
Galatians: Be Free: John 1-12: Be Alive: Hebrews: Be Confident.* 1987,
£2.50 each volume
- Word Books**, A. Bryant, *New Every Morning.* 1985, £2.75