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A 'Library' on Modern Marriage: Design for Successful Marriage

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few contacts with adjoining provinces. Climate, soils, vegetation, and agricultural practices are essentially of a kind and present contrasts to those elsewhere (33).

Shensi and the south-eastern coastal provinces of Chekiang and Fukien constitute still another integral unit: "historically, both have been seats of independent rulers for considerable lengths of time during periods of disunion" (34).

The remarkable thing, of course, is how, in spite of these natural bases for divided rule, China has managed to maintain imperial unity throughout most of her history. One could wish that Ch'ao-ting Chi had spent more time on this point. There is enough in his work, however, to suggest that water control projects provide a key to the answer. One is tempted to draw a parallel between the building of railroads in 19th century Germany and the construction of waterways, irrigation and flood control systems in ancient China. A great deal of spadework doubtless has to be done before the details of this comparison can be worked out.

But someone in search of an answer to how China was able to escape political fragmentation should, perhaps, look for the clue in water control enterprises. These projects affected a sizeable segment of the population, promoted contact among peoples of different areas, battered down the isolation imposed by the physical environment on certain regions, multiplied the resources of the ruling class, and, all in all, provided a promising basis for imperial unification.

EDILBERTO DE JESUS, JR.

A 'LIBRARY' ON MODERN MARRIAGE

DESIGN FOR SUCCESSFUL MARRIAGE. By Alphonse H. Clemens.
New Jersey: Prentice-Hall, Inc., 1964. 364 pp.

In an age when the sanctity of marriage and its true dignity and very meaning are being attacked or ridiculed on screen and stage and in the press, a book like this is a treasure trove from which to draw wisdom and strength, inspiration, and protection against insidious modern errors. Those who are engaged in counseling the young, especially college students who are soon to be married, those engaged in pre-Cana or Cana Conference work will find in these pages a gold mine of information on marriage. Those engaged in pastoral work with married people will be better prepared for having availed themselves of the wealth contained in these pages.

From 150 papal, theological, and philosophical documents, and 500 scientific studies the author has constructed a positive dynamic ap-

proach to marriage as the Divine Plan, the vocation of the vast majority of the human race. From preparation for marriage, reflections on its nature and purpose and modern theories, consideration of the quality of love, with its counterfeits exposed and its true nature presented, through courtship, engagement, honeymoon, and on through the early adjustments to a consideration of all the factors that establish a family in true love, the author moves with sureness and practicality. The natural and supernatural, sacred and secular, philosophic and scientific blend easily to give us a total design ranging from the role of religion to the role of recreation and the problem of the family budget and family shopping. One section treats of marriage failure and rehabilitation and describes all the organizations available in the Church today to assist couples to make a success of their marriage, scil., Cana Conferences, Christian Family Movement, Catholic Life Movement, Family Life Bureau, etc.

The busy priest who is occasionally called on to give a retreat or conferences to the laity on short notice will find in this book a ready reference that will put at his finger tips a rich scientific and withal supernatural approach to the myriad problems that beset the modern Catholic couples who are sincerely trying to know and to follow the Divine plan for a successful marriage, the great challenge of their vocation in the modern world. The priest or seminarian who can not afford many books will find that in buying this one he has put on his desk a veritable library on modern marriage rich with the experience that the author gained as Director of the Marriage Counseling Center at the Catholic University in Washington.

G. W. HEALY, S. J.

A SHORT HISTORY OF BENEDICTINE MONASTICISM

BENEDICTINE MONASTICISM: Its Formation and Development through the Twelfth Century. By Lowrie Daly, S.J. New York: Sheed and Ward, Inc., 1965.

Numerous books have been written on Benedictine Monasticism, most of them by Benedictine authors for monastic or scholarly consumption. Here we have a straightforward informative narrative intended for wide circulation from the pen of a Jesuit author. His frank enthusiasm and discerning admiration for things Benedictine imperceptibly impart themselves to the reader and enable him to communicate with a past that comes alive in so many scenes vibrant with meaning.

As the foreword points out, the purpose of this book is towards a fuller instruction on medieval civilization; the frame of reference, there-