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A Retreat for Housewives: Halo For A Housewife: A Retreat at Home

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some rather enlightening propositions, as e.g. the observation that the link between Christ and Cosmos is always the Church (p. 226). On pages 94-95 is found an impressive enumeration of parallel texts bearing on the static and dynamic elements in a variety of Pauline themes.

That at the conclusion of such a treatise dialectical idealism, dialectical materialism, and Darwin's theory of evolution should have to be invoked for recalling the linear concept of history is regrettable; these 'isms fit into the picture somewhat like junk into a new house; and long before the author hastens to add that "there is however, a difference" (p. 229), one has already judged that history involves freedom, while all three theories are determinist on various levels. But then the theme of freedom seems altogether somewhat relegated to the background in this program for Christian growth.

The book has a fine index of references from the Old and New Testaments. In a second edition, one would eventually like to see the exact sources of the quotations from St. Thomas, and perhaps, some others.

The taking into account of Greek etymology is very fascinating for those who are acquainted with the Greek New Testament. Those who read the New Testament in the vernacular—and they will always be the majority—might feel it to be just a trifle too much for them to go through with it. The book deserves a wide clientele of readers.

SISTER MARIA BRUNO, O.S.B.

A RETREAT FOR HOUSEWIVES

HALO FOR A HOUSEWIFE: A RETREAT AT HOME. By Jean Kelleher Porter. Milwaukee: The Bruce Publishing Company, 1962. xiii, 136 pp.

Halo for a Housewife was conceived for the busy wife and mother who wishes to "get away" and make a spiritual retreat but because of the pressures of household duties finds it difficult to do so. It is designed to provide such women with a plan which would make it possible for them to "go on retreat"—on their own—without disrupting the daily schedule of housework, needing little else but cooperative understanding from family members. The book is so prepared that it becomes a spiritual companion and guide for three days.

The book is made up of three sections: the first deals with the Theological virtues (Faith, Hope, Charity); the second, with the

Cardinal virtues (Prudence, Justice, Temperance, Fortitude); the last, with the Gifts of the Holy Ghost. Each of the sections (further subdivided into three parts) provides meditation material for one day. The readings are so arranged that they fit a schedule (suggested as a working plan for the retreatant) which takes little time away from the regular tasks of the housewife.

Halo for a Housewife is full of references to the familiar—situations which form part of the daily routine of the modern mother who is without domestic help. (To a number of Filipinas, some of the examples are familiar only in the sense that what you read or hear about can be familiar.) Still in a general sense, the suggestions for self-improvement are appropriate for all homemakers. The apparently trivial subject of personal appearance is transformed into proper matter for meditation.

Next to her complete trust in God, the most remarkable thing about my friend was her stubborn determination not to 'let herself go.' At Sunday Mass or on her rare evenings out, she always looked as young and trim as another woman with a fraction of her duties. She kept her figure and she always wore her hair in an attractive hairdo.

For all the concrete and practical suggestions that the book has to offer, it seems to want something, a hardly definable something. The warmth and wonder of a deeper insight into the meaning and significance of a higher union with God—most welcome to dwell on during a retreat—seems (to this reader at least) to have been somewhat overlooked.

MARIA TERESA COLAYCO

BRITISH ACTIVITIES IN SOUTH-EAST ASIA

BRITAIN AND SOUTH-EAST ASIA. By Saul Rose. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins Press, 1962 (first published by Chatto and Windus, London). 208 pp.

This book is the second in a series called 'Britain in the World Today', which originates from St. Anthony's College, Oxford, a newly founded institution devoted chiefly to research into subjects of present-day interest. It contains a historical account, with special emphasis on the post-war period, of the activities of the British in this region. The two areas formerly under British administration—Burma and Malaysia—are treated in detail and some account is given of other countries which felt British influence.