

(Kevin)

### Religious Book of the Week

**"INSTRUMENT OF THY PEACE"** (Seabury Press, \$3.50) is a Lenten devotional book by Alan Paton, author of "Cry, the Beloved Country."

Part of the attractiveness of the work consists of a group of 20 prayers that have been inspired by a petition in the famed prayer of St. Francis of Assisi: "Lord, make me an instrument of Thy peace."

The author's observations cover such subjects as the racial situation in the U. S. and in his native South Africa, the hippie movement, and the Church.

Of the hippie movement he writes: "It almost looks like a vision of the Gospel seen through a haze of marijuana smoke."

And he says about the Church: "I have no higher vision of the Church than as the servant of the world, not withdrawn but participating, not embattled but battling, not condemning but healing the wounds of the hurt and the lost and the lonely."

Paton writes that his purpose

"is to hold out a way of life which may be followed by those who wish to live a life of usefulness and service, but who find difficulty in accepting rigid doctrine and beliefs. It is also intended to help those who are inclined to melancholy, or to self-pity, or who tend to be withdrawn."

The quality of his work is seen in this petition, "Help me, O Lord, not to be afraid to love the outcast, the leper, the unmarried pregnant woman, the traitor to the State, the man out of prison . . ."