

INNERMOST REFLECTIONS

The Forum

INSTRUMENT OF THY PEACE, by Alan Paton,
Pub: The Seabury Press, 1968, \$3.50, 124 pages.

(YMCA)



Alan Paton is sharing his innermost reflections, and while there are no new concepts offered, some old ones are made more useful. This is an experience in reading over someone else's shoulder some notes which that person has jotted down for his own meditation. This feeling of closeness could well make it possible for the reader to identify with the writer.

This is not a readily useable devotional book. The original prayer of St. Francis has long been a favorite of many, but Paton's up-to-date original prayers lack something, perhaps a feeling of reverence. Ideas ramble somewhat, as we expect of "reflections". The only way to appreciate the book is to sit quietly and read it from beginning to end. You can't dissect it to be taken in small doses, as you can with some devotional books.

The author achieves his goal of showing the potential in every human being. Willingness to be used is the only criteria. He puts greatness within the realm of possibility for all. His basic idea, while not new, is presented in a practical and positive way by one whose sincerity shines through bright and clear.

Elmer O. Hill

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