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Alan Paton: *Instrument of Thy Peace*

124 pp., New York: (Seabury Press, \$3.50)

Reviewed by VIOLET M. PORTER

The ANGELICAN

Summer 68

To read Alan Paton's *Instrument of Thy Peace* is to encounter beauty . . . beauty of subject matter and the beauty and depth of the English language. His subject is the St. Francis Prayer. In the twenty one very short meditations we find thoughtful, moving and simple reflections on the petitions of the Prayer. Clergy and laity alike can benefit in reading this book.

Interlaced throughout the book are facts and observations from which emerge a more vivid portrait of St. Francis of Assisi himself. The book is timely. Indeed there should be a greater accent on Peace, Love, and Joy . . . all this through Christ. *Instrument of Thy Peace* does just this. Paton writes:

"I have no higher vision of the Church than as a Servant of the World, not withdrawn but participating, not embattled but battling, not condemning but healing the wounds of the hurt and the lost and the lonely, not preoccupied with its survival or its observances or its Articles, but with the needs of mankind." p. 69

I only wish the book could have been \$2.50 instead of \$3.50 so that it could find its way and use in more libraries everywhere. This is a book to cherish, to own, and one to be reread and used from time to time. The Biblical passages are superb. Then too, there are quotations from Spiritual people who are not Christians (i.e. Tagore) I say Buy the book, read the book.