

Stannity 8/68 PC11/10/2/69

INSTRUMENT OF THY PEACE. Alan Paton. Seabury Press. 124 pp. \$3.50.

The reviewer is Nancy Hardesty, assistant editor of ETERNITY.

Life in South Africa is not conducive to peace of heart for a sensitive, concerned Christian. Yet in this movingly beautiful book, novelist Alan Paton shares the insights which God has given him.

Based on the prayer of Francis of Assisi, "Lord, make me an instrument of Thy peace," this book is a series of meditations, aptly suited to either private or group devotions.

There is no question that Paton, author of *Cry, the Beloved Country* and *Too Late the Phalarope*, is a skillful writer. After reading this book, there will be no question that he is a deep Christian thinker who can ably express the issues which trouble all of us: doubt, violence, racial tensions, discouragement.

Like all of us, Paton is still searching for the answers. But in *Instrument of Thy Peace* he points the way toward some solutions. One answer is found in his honest prayers like this one:

Make me, O Lord, the instrument of Thy love, that I may bring comfort to those who sorrow and joy to those who are regarded as persons of little account. In this country of many races make me courteous to those who are humble and understanding to those who are resentful. Teach me what I should be to the arrogant and cruel, for I do not know.

And as for me myself, make me more joyful than I am, especially if this is needed for the sake of others. Let me remember my many experiences of joy and thankfulness, especially those that endure. And may I this coming day do some work of peace for Thee.