

# *MRA message a little naive but refreshing*

**The Black and White Book**—by Sydney Cook and Garth Lean (Blandford Press). A MESSAGE OF HOPE for our chaotic world, this booklet is the Moral Re-Armament movement's answer to the world's problems of pollution, poverty, racial hatred and war.

Its answer is based on the firm conviction that human nature can be changed. The method is simple. The man who wishes to change people must change first himself, then others, by trying to live up to standards of absolute honesty, absolute purity, absolute unselfishness and absolute love. For him there are no shades of grey; there is only black and white.

That the world would indeed be a better place if people lived up to these standards is beyond question; but the

possibility of effecting so radical a change in human nature is not.

The booklet counters this objection by citing numerous occasions on which such radical changes in human nature have been effected. From these examples it concludes that the Christian-style revolution is already gathering momentum.

The revolution's enemies are drugs, sex, pornography, money and power. These are all drugs of one type or another which make people self-absorbed and indifferent to

the world's problems. Sex, for example, makes people "moody, self-centred, dull-eyed, bad-tempered, sloppy at work".

The power which defeats these enemies comes from God. He will free people from the hold of drugs; give them the strength to say "No" to sex and to resist porn-pollution; encourage them to spend their money on those who need it most; and replace their lust for power with self-discipline and freedom.

The tone is optimistic and a little naive, and the authors appear to be a bit harsh on sex; but this is a refreshingly honest and down-to-earth statement of practical Christian precepts. It could become the Das Kapital of today's "Jesus freaks".

It is directed at school-children — using simple language and plenty of sub-headings—and would make an excellent set-book for Form II and above.—N.T.