

13th century Gothic architect, Villard de Honnecourt. Some drawings from a text-book which he wrote are reproduced and these are very instructive. The omission of any reference to Westminster Cathedral in this book is a defect, since this church is undoubtedly one of the very greatest of modern buildings and not all the deplorable efforts at interior 'decoration' from which it has suffered can hide the fact.

The only building of Pugin's which Dr. Pevsner mentions is the Houses of Parliament, and this is hardly fair as Pugin was responsible for the detail only (one thinks with pleasure of the Gothic inkpots and umbrella-stands!) and was well aware of the building's fundamental defects. Pugin was to the mediæval builders as Eliseus to Elias; he was feeling and thinking his way to great things when cut off by an early death, and when we consider that he had only the degraded and servile 19th century hirelings, instead of free and responsible craftsmen, to carry out his ideas, it is wonderful that he achieved as much as he did. How many citizens of Birmingham realise what a treasure they possess in the interior of St. Chad's Cathedral?

MICHAEL SEWELL.

THE NEWSPAPER. By Ivor Thomas. HOW BRITAIN IS GOVERNED. By R. B. McCallum. (Oxford Pamphlets on Home Affairs. 6d. each.)

These admirably concise essays provide a well-arranged mass of information, together with illuminating comment and analysis of the spirit of our institutions. In the first of them all that relates to the gathering and presentation of news, the conditions in which British newspapers are developed, the ownership of the more important of them, are discussed. In the second the right note is struck from the beginning, where we are reminded of the peculiar strength of the Crown in England; there is also much useful information, attractively presented, about the history of Parliament, the various offices of state, and the organic relationship between electorate and government.

E.Q.

COUNTRY HOARD. By Alison Uttley. (Faber; 6s.)

Of all memories which may be evoked in books, those of childhood and those of the English countryside are among the most delicate, and it should be praise enough for Mrs. Uttley to say that she shows us the bloom on both. Her achievement in this book is by no means equal through all its parts. When she approaches general description, she exhibits some weaknesses of writing which might have been remedied by more simplicity or by more sophistication; there is a superfluity of such words as 'magic,' 'fairy,' 'spell'

and 'enchantment,' which should rise of themselves in the reader's mind rather than be deliberately proffered him. But where (as is much more often the case) she builds on concrete details—the small events of a child's life, things actually done, real conversations—her tact is superb, criticism is disarmed, and the vivid and sometimes poignant recollections become a part of one's own experience. 'Bathrooms' and 'The Shooters' are specially good as complete chapters, and of particular passages I should choose the ending of 'Field Toys,' from the children's visit to the cowshed to their racing uphill after the setting sun—it is irresistible.

W.S.

CATECHISM AT EARLY MASS. By Rev. Fr. Drinkwater. Burns Oates; 3s. 6d.)

Fr. Drinkwater has taken the Catechism questions and answers (to the end of the section on the Sacraments), either singly or in small related groups, and appended to each several considerations in note form that would take about three minutes to speak. This is his solution, as he has given it over four years, to the problem of instructing the mixed congregations at 'early' Masses. The solution is sound and the considerations clear and simple and distinguished from other Catechism expositions in that they continually advert to the love and service we each owe to God. One wonders, however, whether it would not have been better to publish the idea rather than the book as it stands, for surely it is the idea rather than the use of the book that Fr. Drinkwater would commend to other parish priests?

As a complement to other explained catechisms it will be helpful to teachers, catechists and converts under instruction.

MARY BEAUMONT.

BLACKFRIARS

(with which is incorporated *The Catholic Review*).

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Communications regarding Advertisements should be addressed to the Manager, Blackfriars, Oxford (Tel. 3607).

Subscriptions and orders for copies should be sent to Messrs. Basil Blackwell, 49 Broad Street, Oxford (Tel. 3487). Annual Subscription 12/6 post free (in U.S.A. \$3).

Printed for the Proprietors at the Oxonian Press, Queen Street, Oxford.