

fired by the joy of the faith, at his best Fr Desplanques is very good indeed. He possesses in a marked degree a quality not overcommon among spiritual writers—an awareness of mystery. He writes from the still centre, where Christianity is apprehended as a Person, where history and this world of time are transfigured in the vision of Christ all-in-all.

D.P.M.

THE LITURGICAL MOVEMENT AND THE LOCAL CHURCH. By Alfred R. Shands. (S.C.M. Press; 8s. 6d.)

This little book is intended for Christians of all communions. The author, a young American Episcopalian minister, visited, in the space of a year, various liturgical centres in Europe—both Catholic and Protestant. He then settled down to write a book out of what he calls 'the jig-saw of pieces of experience which though dissimilar fitted together into one whole'. Unhappily the jig-saw pieces with their odd uncompromising edges do not fit into a single picture although he pressed them together confidently. Forcing is strictly against jig-saw rules: one is left with the impression that several puzzle packets have got mixed up. The dissimilarities of the various traditions are more important for their proper assessment than the loose generalities required to fit them together. The work of the Iona community, for example, must be understood in the context of the Scottish working class parish and the liturgical and theological traditions of the Scottish Presbyterian Church. The complexities of contemporary Anglican liturgical life receive a careless unsympathetic handling. How, for instance, can Cranmer's liturgical ideals be recommended by an adherent of the 'Parish Communion' movement? Cranmer's excision of the eucharistic offertory was the expression of a very different sort of liturgical theology than Mr Shands recommends. The very impressive liturgical-pastoral work of the Church of England (which should be of the greatest interest to English Catholics) is inevitably confused by this kind of ecumenical approach which presupposes one packet and one picture.

C.B.