

hard put to it to arrange for an ordinary High Mass, and which cannot possibly find in addition an assistant priest and assistant deacons for a pontifical ceremony. Indeed, if one strictly adhered to the rules, it would be almost impossible to celebrate Pontifical High Mass outside the Cathedral or a college, since 'When the Bishop of the Diocese celebrates Pontifical Mass at the throne the chanting of the Office of Terce . . . is obligatory' (p. 17). Holy Mother Church has conceded to those with a small church and a limited number of assistants a simplified rite for Holy Week in the *Memoriale Rituum*: may we not hope that some day we may be allowed something similar for Pontifical High Mass, to be used only, of course, in places where the full ceremony is impossible? A small parish wants to do the best it can when the Bishop honours it with a visit, but at present it will have to cut out its usual *Missa Cantata* and be content with a Low Mass if the Bishop is to be present in the sanctuary.

B.N.

THE FUTURE OF FAITH: A DIVERSITY OF VIEWS. Edited by Percy Colson, with a Preface by Lord Vansittart. (Hurst and Blackett; 6s.)

This collection of 'views,' by no means always on faith, is not a sufficiently thoughtful or valuable exposé on the part of the editor or authors to merit strong commendation. 'You may be interested' would be a pleasing title to read on boards and books these times. The essays betray the tragedy of human self-confidence without confidence in God. Unhappily only three or four of the twenty papers recognise the existence even of this tragedy. Not because they write specifically on faith, or its future, but because you may like to be directed round rather than through this maze we would notice the papers on *The simple religion of Jesus Christ* by the Rev. Leslie Weatherhead, on *Education* by Basil A. Yeaxlee, and on *The Natural Law* by Christopher Dawson. You may be interested by others' 'Views'; by these perhaps we would all be the better for being interested.

P.P.F.

YOUR CATHOLIC LANGUAGE. By Mary Perkins. (Sheed and Ward; 8s. 6d.)

The author of *At Ease in the Catholic Church* has given us a new Church Latin book, based on the Mass, and designed for those who are anxious to become acquainted with Latin without taking much trouble. The Latin of the Mass is given on each left-hand page, with a literal interlinear translation. The right-hand pages contain grammatical explanations. Patient conning of the interlinear translation will no doubt in time produce a measure of understanding of the Latin text, but if the book be intended (as would seem to be

the case) for people without any previous knowledge of Latin, we find the grammatical explanations somewhat confusing and cumbersome. English derivations of the Latin words are given, but the introduction of such English words 'dolose' (wily) and 'tristful' (sad) on p.8 and 'mortician' on p.56, even with an explanation, is surely pointless in a book of this kind, and the reference on p.10 to 'Lux (the flakes that make clothes light)' would have been better omitted. Tables of declension and conjugation are given at the end of the book, together with a fairly complete vocabulary. The book's chief merit is that the reader is throughout made to feel that learning Church Latin is easy, and that the student will meet no difficulty which cannot be overcome. The price of 8s. 6d. is excessive, even for war-time.

K.P.

**SURVIVAL TILL SEVENTEEN.** By Leonard Feeney. (Sheed and Ward; 6s.)

Fr. Feeney's express purpose in this quasi-autobiography is 'to offer some of the experiences of my early childhood for clinical examination by those capable of appraising such things scientifically.' Those who are familiar with his *Fish on Friday* and *You'd Better Come Quietly* will not be surprised to find these experiences oddly chosen and whimsically related; and their scientific appraisal is convincingly set forth by the author, despite his own modest disclaimer. In truth the account of his *Survival Till Seventeen* years of life have passed proves to be largely a series of delightful pegs upon which to hang sundry important results of a vivid insight into the eternal verities. His vignettes of his noise-loving, hospitable father and his lovely young mother, of Mr. Wigglesworth, the local store-keeper, of Wing Lee, the solitary laundryman, of schoolgirl Alicia and the incident of the inkwell, of the Imagination Guy, all are delightfully alive. But they are not thus exquisitely drawn to attract or amuse; they are key-points in the development of a character which the reader will find remarkable and fine, and they are the introduction to some profound, though whimsically expressed, observations on life and art and mysticism.

H. J. CARPENTER, O.P.