

great help to those not too sure of their own ability to read music. It is a pity, though, that half of each side is simply not used—more music might profitably have been included, such as a simple setting of the Ordinary. It is also unclear why the second side uses only one voice, without any congregation to respond. My only other complaint is that there should have been an 'Amen' at the end of the collects demonstrated, especially as it is not always clear to people just how they are supposed to sing the 'Amen' (this is a criticism of the music itself, of course. The priest should ideally end his prayer on the note the people are to take up with their Amen).

Now that the CTS have made their entry into the world of music, with their printing of *Jubilate Deo* and now their Mass card, may I express the hope that they may perhaps go on to give us a collection of a few simple settings of the Ordinary of the Mass, without which the chants and responses are rather incomplete; and also they might think about giving a few guidelines for religious communities and others who wish to sing the Divine Office, but have not the resources or the time to print their own musical settings. A very few principles of psalmody, and a few standard types of responsory, could set us all up in business.

SIMON TUGWELL OF

**IRELAND IN THE TWENTIETH CENTURY** by John A. Murphy. *Gill & Macmillan*, Dublin, 1975. 180 pp. £1.30.

The relative inaccessibility of private manuscript collections, and the unenlightened policy of the State in respect of official archives, combine to thwart the efforts of historians to provide a coherent version of Irish political history since 1921. It is not surprising that few historians have had the courage to attempt a 'general survey', far less an interpretative essay. Professor Murphy's compact volume tries to do both, and succeeds remarkably well. Lest readers be misled by the title, it is only fair to point out that Professor Murphy's book is essentially a political history of the 26-county State from the 1918 election to 1974, with a concluding chapter ( tantalisingly brief and suggestive) on the Northern State since 1920. It is true that social and economic factors are duly, and at times tellingly, noted. But the emphasis is at all times on the political narrative. As such, the book is a model of clarity and balance. Professor Murphy's sifting of the evidence is sure and scholarly, his eye for significant detail is unerring, his judgements

are careful and well-argued, and his style admirably lucid.

On controversial issues his sympathies are often very well hidden. For example, while giving due credit to the 'founding fathers' of the Free State in the 1920s, he shows shrewd sensitivity (and could it be admiration?) in discussing the De Valera takeover of power in 1932. It is also reasonable to assume that some of Professor Murphy's views (implicit in the text) on the nature of social progress and the role of force in more recent Irish history will generate lively discussion.

Professor Murphy devotes some 60 of his 173 pages of text to the crucial years between 1918 and 1923, and while some of the subsequent chapters suffer from over-compression, the detailed analysis of those five crucial formative years is most impressive, and makes one hope that Professor Murphy will reflect more expansively on the later period in some future work.

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