

the world's travail and pain in general, while finding much that is practical and helpful for the individual soul.

SR M. AQUINAS, O.P.

PROFESSIONAL PRAYERS. By Albert Gille. (Printed privately; 1s.6d.)

There is about these prayers (republished from the *Catholic Herald*) an air of crudity and flippancy unworthy of their purpose and divine object. The volume lacks both taste and an *imprimatur*. We have had popularised versions of everything from psychiatry to Beethoven and it is to be regretted that the great prayers of the votive Masses and the *rituale* could not have been translated and reproduced on the paper used for these repellent parodies.

T. HARPER.

THE BOOK OF UNCOMMON PRAYER. By Frank W. Moyle. (Andrew Dakers; 8s.6d.)

That treasury of incomparable prose and confused theology, the Book of Common Prayer, is fair game for the shooting of critics from the extreme right (Dom Gregory Dix) to the extreme left (the Reverend Frank Moyle). The destruction thus wrought (if it is destruction, for the B.C.P. goes on, like Tennyson's brook) can hardly be called liturgical criticism for most of the critics want to demolish the theological assumptions of the book.

Mr Frank Moyle, who would seem to belong to the Barnes-Major school, dislikes almost everything in the Book of Common Prayer. He does not think God should be called 'almighty', a great deal of Biblical phraseology is misleading to the people, he thinks, but he has a particular grudge against the Baptismal, Marriage and Burial Services. He provides substitutes of his own which are suitably vague and inevitably wordy. Oddly enough, he has nothing to say about the Communion Service, so very late-medieval, as Dom Gregory Dix has taught us.

Catholics can only feel it is all no business of ours. We only continue to marvel that people holding such bizarre notions should still want to call themselves Christians.

J.D.C.

THE CHRONICLE OF HUGH CANDIDUS, A MONK OF PETERBOROUGH. Edited by W. T. Mellows. With LA GESTE DE BURCH. Edited with an Introduction by Alexander Bell. (Oxford University Press, on behalf of The Friends of Peterborough Cathedral; 15s.)

This careful edition of a minor but interesting chronicle had one predecessor which was published in 1727. It is concerned almost exclusively with the affairs of the abbey and especially with the vindication of its claims, temporal and spiritual. Occasionally there are comments on other matters which give some fascinating glimpse of medieval England; for example the remark that the Danes were afraid to meet the English hand-to-hand but came suddenly like thieves by night on unsuspecting men, and always ran back to their ships. The Anglo-Norman *Geste*, which is accompanied by an English translation, is mainly of linguistic interest.

A.R.