

Blackfriars

Blyton's next novel. *Gale Warning* should have the success it deserves. J.C.

FORGOTTEN ENGLAND. By the Rev. H. E. G. Rope. (Heath Cranton; pp. 227, 4/6 net.)

It is told that when the prodigal son, suddenly rising from the swine-troughs said, 'I only wish I had the bread I once ate in my father's home,' his fellow-spendthrift replied cynically, 'Laudator temporis acti.' For the moment the prodigal son had no answer to make. But fastening, for the last time, the door of the sty he turned homewards.

The writer of *Forgotten England* will expect and pity such readers of his book as pity him for what they deem

His over-praise
Of past days.

Yet to reassure himself in the difficult art of prophecy he will recall how it was Cleobury Mortimer where he lives that gave birth, we are told, to the singer whose 'Vision of Piers Plowman' warned Merry, Catholic, England that it might soon be sad and protestant.

It is no joy to write the book Fr. Rope has written; and because it is written so well, there is no joy in reading it. Yet it had to be written. And it should be read. V.McN.

THE OFFICE OF COMPLINE. Edited by Rev. John Burke, B.A. (Desclée).

Compline books have been published before, both good and bad, but this is much the best which we have yet seen. It is well and clearly printed, Plainsong in the square notation, complete Latin and English words (the translations are tucked in at places where they will not interrupt the eye of the singer), everything is included that is wanted for Sunday Compline throughout the year, with special hymn tunes for the seasons, and the antiphons of Our Lady. Also there is Compline for certain days in the Church's year when the Office varies. At the end there is a short Appendix with tunes for Benediction. Another recommendation is that it is strongly bound. Fr. Burke has written a short but beautiful preface, and an instructive note on Psalmody.

Users of this book—may there be many, for Compline is the ideal Sunday evening service—should be warned that the Dolef mark on the last line of p. 52 and the first line of p. 53 has 'slipped up one' and needs to be corrected. F.M.