

the Decree is given in Latin and English, with applications made in two more recent decrees by the Sacred Congregations of *Propaganda* and for the Eastern Church. The ritual to be observed will be found here. The excellent and most helpful commentary is conceived on the same lines as that written by the same author on marriage preliminaries. The nature of the priest's delegated power of confirming is touched on, and its determining character seen in the grant of jurisdiction. As is pointed out, it is therefore subject to the rule of canon 209 on supplied jurisdiction. Which does not mean that all errors in administration evade responsibility for invalidity. The power of confirming is restricted in the decree to those named and under the conditions envisaged, and it cannot validly be sub-delegated. It extends to exempt religious houses within the area of the priest's jurisdiction. The same faculty is enjoyed by missionaries who may be granted wider additional powers from their own Ordinaries. The recipient must be actually within the territory of the confirming priest, which Canon Mahoney takes as an added reason for making a clear definition of parochial boundaries. As with extreme unction, danger of death by sickness is a condition for valid administration.

AMBROSE FARRELL, O.P.

ST THOMAS AND THE EXISTENCE OF GOD: Three Interpretations. By William Bryar. (Henry Regnery Co., Chicago; \$5.)

The main body of this book, entitled 'Systematic Interpretative Study', is an attempt to present an explicitly logically patterned account of some part of thomist metaphysics. Since many of the sections are substantially word for word the same, we feel that this would have been more satisfactorily achieved in ten pages than in one hundred. No texts are adduced to support the interpretation until the first appendix is reached, when the connection is not made very clear. The other appendices contain useful material collected from various reviews, but do not amount to 'discussions' as they are sometimes called. The introductory chapters in which the author seeks to expound his intentions we find difficult to understand and out of all proportion to the eventual achievement. An attractive programme conscientiously carried out is in general obscured by verbosity.

I.T.

RUSSIAN OPERA. By Martin Cooper.

GILBERT AND SULLIVAN. By Arthur Jacobs. (World of Music; Max Parrish; 7s. 6d. each.)

The 'World of Music' series consists of short monographs of about seventy pages, profusely and well illustrated. As far as the format is concerned the only objection one could make is that the music examples are untidy: if a proper music type is not available it would be better to