

On page 141 there seems to be a printer's error (Daniel-David?), and perhaps 'salutary tears' on page 134 should be 'salutary fears'.

G. M. CORR, O.S.M.

MARTYRS: From St Stephen to John Tung. By Donald Attwater. (Sheed and Ward; 16s.)

This book consists of fifty-eight accounts (varying in length from two to nine pages) of the sufferings of the martyrs, together with a short introduction and extracts from St Cyprian's *Exhortation to Martyrdom*. It is, as the author claims, a representative selection, both in time and place—a witness to the catholicity of the Church. Half of them are from pre-Reformation times, twenty of these being from the first four centuries; the other twenty-nine include eleven Reformation martyrs in England, Wales or Scotland, missionary martyrs from all quarters of the globe, and finally three victims of the persecutions of recent years. There are well-known saints such as Lawrence, Alban and Thomas of Canterbury, and unknowns like Saints Jonan and Berikjesu (martyred in Persia, 327), and Blessed Gomidas Keumurgian (Constantinople, 1707).

These accounts are both scholarly and readable; many of them are vivid and moving. But the author concentrates on the acts of martyrdom, sketching the historical background very briefly, and in consequence there is a certain sameness about them, for all their circumstantial variety. This is not a book to read straight through. Nor on the other hand is it a book of reference, like Butler. It occupies a rather undefined position, somewhere in between.

A.G.