

## R E V I E W S

THE POPE SPEAKS. By Charles Rankin. (Faber; 7s. 6d.)

Why has the Pope not ex-communicated Mussolini, Hitler, Goebbels, Goering, as a former Pope ex-communicated Napoleon? His Eminence Cardinal Hinsley discloses the reason in his lengthy and admirable preface to this volume. This alone is front page news. In addition, he points out the omen connected with the rainbow in the Pope's coat of arms and the rainbow seen in Rome on the day he was elected Pope. It is interesting to note, by the way, that the Pope frequently refers to 'the rainbow of Peace' in his allocutions. Cardinal Hinsley also justifies completely the Pope's attitude towards the Spanish civil war.

*The Pope Speaks* is divided into four parts. The first deals with every known activity of the Pope since his birth on the banks of the Tiber sixty-four years ago up to the declaration of war by Mussolini. It makes clear that since 1917 when he handed Pope Benedict XV's peace proposals to the Kaiser he has been praying and working for world peace without intermission. Interesting sidelights are thrown on him for the first time—such as the very strong effect that the Naval Review at Spithead had on him when he came to London for the Coronation of George V. You also read of his visit to America when he hired an aeroplane and flew several thousand miles with a portable typewriter strapped to a special chair installed for him. When in Rome do as the Romans do. In America the Pope behaved like any good American, going to the top of the Empire State Building, visiting the Niagara Falls and Hollywood among other show places.

Part Two is a careful compilation of all His Holiness's more important broadcasts, allocutions, addresses and messages, including his correspondence with President Roosevelt and his famous Five Point Peace Plan. Part Three is taken up by his two most important encyclicals, letters in which he condemns Russia and Germany for the wanton invasion of Poland and Finland. Part Four is in the nature of an appendix, and includes Pope Benedict XV's Peace Plan of 1917 and the encyclical of Pius XI following the Versailles Treaty. Every possible effort has been made by Mr. Rankin (a Protestant) to guarantee accuracy. This has been made certain by the kind-

ness of a distinguished Catholic priest, who corrected the original manuscript and suggested various improvements, excisions and additions. The book is entirely non-sectarian, but its very material compels the reader to realise how hard the Pope has worked for peace. It runs to nearly 100,000 words, and includes a frontispiece of the Pope and an index.

F.A.F.

THE BOOK OF THE MIRACULOUS MEDAL. By a Vincentian Father. (Sands and Co.; 1s. 3d.)

THE SHRINE OF OUR LADY OF WALSINGHAM. By the Rev. William Reany. (Sands and Co.; 1s.)

In an address at the solemn ceremony which brought the Centenary Year of the Miraculous Medal to a close on July 19th, 1931, our late Holy Father Pius XI of glorious memory used these words: 'All the world knows that the Church is at a sad and painful epoch of its history . . . And this is when precisely in our days the Miraculous Medal comes to shine, as if to recall to us, in a sensible and tangible way, that all things, even miracles, are granted in answer to prayer; and I would say *especially miracles*. That is the magnificent and distinctive property of the Medal . . . *We have need of miracles.*'

What has happened and is happening was already foreseen by this Pope of remarkable clear vision and sound judgment. The root causes of the present world calamities were already visible to those who had eyes to see. The Pope saw that miracles alone could save the world from the consequences of its own mad career since God had been deposed in the minds and hearts of men from His rightful place as the Supreme Ruler of the destinies of mankind. To-day when we are caught up or perhaps rather sucked down into this maelstrom of evil we must realise that it was just against this day that the Pope said, '*We need miracles.*' Any book, then, which to-day directs our minds to Our Lady, always the chosen instrument for God to manifest His greatest favours to men, is a timely and important book, though in itself it may be small and unpretentious.

'*We have need of miracles,*' and the first miracle is to change the hearts of our people, of all England, that they may return again to their Mother the source of miraculous favours in every age down to the present. The apparitions of Our Lady to Bl. Catherine Labouré, examined and attested as genuine by the Church: the medal that she ordered to be struck, with its inscription, 'O Mary conceived without sin pray for us who have