

NOTICES

AT YOUR EASE IN THE CATHOLIC CHURCH. By Mary Perkins.
(Sheed and Ward; 5s.)

The average English reader will consider a manual of ecclesiastical etiquette a singular publication. An Englishman is not accustomed to think very explicitly about the reasons for his manners, however important he may think manners to be. An American is perhaps more conscious of the necessity for looking into the principles that govern the formalities of his conduct. It is the application of this attitude to the ecclesiastical sphere of life that has prompted this book. Perhaps for us its chief value lies in the light it throws upon the social conditions of the Church in America. It may even arouse an Englishman or two from his smug acquiescence in all that is English and institutional as infallibly good, and introduce him to a few Americanisms that are better. At least he will learn of an attitude to etiquette which will make him pause before canonising his own easy-going ways, and his own unquestioning acceptance of convention just because it is convention. In these pages he will learn of a Christian mentality gifted with a youthful spirit of inquiry into the significance of the ordinary actions of Catholic life. He will find much sound practical advice about the Sacraments, the Mass, the liturgical life, the hierarchy, the religious orders. Only when it strays into the realm of theological reasoning is the book sometimes unsatisfactory: when, for instance, the Church's attitude to contraception is defended, not for wrong reasons precisely, but for less cogent ones alone. But the book is a noteworthy one for the author's freshness and realism, and for the profound consciousness she shows of what it means to live the liturgy in a world of automobiles and advertisements.

G.A.M.

COMMENTARIUM TEXTUS CODICIS IURIS CANONICI. By Fr. Albert Blat, O.P. (Rome: 'Angelicum,' Salita del Grillo, 1; pp. 709; n.p.)

This is a useful and reliable commentary on the second and third parts of Book II of the Codex of Canon Law, concerning in particular religious and lay associations. There is a very considerable enlargement and improvement on the older commentary previously published some years ago. Some important canons receive still only a very summary treatment in comparison with others which are commented on at length. The

printing in black type of each canon before the commentary on it is one of the marked improvements. And the reference number to the Canons at the top of each page makes the book an easy guide. We are not entirely convinced that to treat of societies without vows within the commentary on religious makes for clearness. But on the whole we have here an informative canonical work, which will be welcome to all religious institutes and confraternities, and to all who are in any way responsible for them.

A.F.

AUX JEUNES—BEAUTÉ ET GRANDEUR DU SACERDOCE. By R. P. Quillard, C.S.S.R. (Éditions Salvator, Mulhouse; n.p.)

This is a book on the priesthood for boys. In twenty chapters, each followed by the account of an incident in the life of a holy priest, the author speaks of vocation to the priesthood and the ideals of the priestly life. The book has the approbation of forty-five bishops, but from the nature of the case it will not make a wide appeal in this country.

B.O'D.

BOOKS RECEIVED

BLACKWELL: *The Hearings of Psychology on Religion*, Sydney Herbert Mellone, M.A., D.Sc. (12s. 6d.); *O Call Back Yesterday*, Margaret Fletcher (5s.).

BURNS, OATES AND WASHBOURNE: *A Christian's Christmas, An Anthology*, Ed. Lord Clonmore (7s. 6d.); *The Life of St. Dominic*, A Dominicaness of Headington (1s.); *St. Thomas of Canterbury*, George Mills (1s.); *Of His Fullness*, Gerald Vann, O.P. (5s.); *The Catholic Diary 1940* (Cloth 1s., Leather 2s. 6d.); *The Sunday Collects Simply Explained*, Rev. E. C. Messenger, Ph.D. (6s.); *You Are the Body of Christ*, John Kearney, C.S.Sp. (2s. 6d.).

CASSELL: *Men, Women and Places*, Sigrid Undset, Tr. A. G. Chater (7s. 6d.).

COLDWELL: *The Mystery of the Divine Motherhood*, Charles Feckes, Tr. Canon George Smith, D.D. (10s. 6d.); *Nervous Mental Diseases*, Chrysostomus Schulte, O.M.Cap. (10s. 6d.).

LONGMANS: *The Nazi Persecution of Christianity*, Michael Power (6s.); *Merry in God, A Life of Fr. William Doyle, S.J.* (2s. 6d.).

PRESERVATION PRESS (Maryland, U.S.A.): *The Church Before Pilate*, Edward Leen, C.S.Sp. (\$2).

SANDS: *The Boyhood of a Priest, A Country Rector* (3s. 6d.).

SHRED AND WARD: *The God of Reason*, J. K. Heydon (5s.); *The Life of Our Lord for Children*, Marigold Hunt (5s.).