

from him to the plainsong settings we still hear in our churches. That chain was modified but not broken by the Lutheran Reformation and the main difference between Passions before and after the schism was the adoption of German. By degrees the influence of opera was felt and the recitatorial, dramatic Passion gave way to the oratorio type which introduced the operatic forms of aria and duet as well as the congregational chorale, expanding the choruses. Neumeister's invention of the German church cantata in the time of Bach's youth made this mingling of recitative, lyrical poems and hymns familiar. With Bach the old dramatic pattern is still present but by degrees it was eliminated and we are left with a succession of reflections and meditations with no narration, as in Graun's once well-known *Tod Jesu*. Mr Smallman writes attractively but without condescending to the untutored, and he has been allowed enough musical examples to make his points clear. This is an excellent little book for those whom C. S. Terry's larger volumes may intimidate.

CUTHBERT GIRDLESTONE

SACRAMENTS AND WORSHIP. Edited by the Rev. Paul E. Palmer, S.J. (Sources of Christian Theology, volume 1). (Longmans; 15s.)

This is a selection of documents intended to illustrate the liturgies and doctrines of Baptism, Confirmation and the Eucharist throughout the last eighteen hundred years. The methods chosen are those of Father Denzinger. It is possible to regret that the extracts are so short, the annotation so slight and the dating and ascriptions at times provocatively positive. Still it remains a remarkable achievement to have compressed so much into so small a space and the documents are moderately representative and clearly translated. It is a pity that Father Palmer could not allow himself more space for his patristic excerpts, and it is only fair to add that most non-Catholic scholars will consider his selection to be tendentious.

GERVASE MATHEW, O.P.

PROBLEMS IN CANON LAW. By William Conway, D.D., D.C.L. (Browne & Nolan Ltd; 30s.)

PROBLEMS IN THEOLOGY, VOL. I: THE SACRAMENTS. By John Canon McCarthy, D.D. (Browne & Nolan Ltd; 40s.)

These two books are a selection from answers to questions given in the *Irish Ecclesiastical Record* over a period of fifteen years.

It may seem curious, if not useless, to republish answers to past problems, and if these volumes are looked on as handy books of reference in which to turn up the solution of a problem that has just arisen they would serve little use, for the present problem will seldom