

M. le Corbusier's principles may at first sight appear Utopian: but the more one goes about the towns of England today, and finds in each of them the same congestion, discomfort and danger in the streets, the more one realizes that only radical, ruthless and far-reaching planning on the lines of M. le Corbusier's *Four Routes* can save the situation.

There seems small chance of conversion to these principles on a large scale. Conscientious, careful but unimaginative planning is bound to appeal more to 'our aediles'. If, however, a large-scale model of the radiant city be displayed, its merits might be made obvious to the most conservative minds. Until some real authority has had the courage to try out a 'radiant city', aluminium 'units of accommodation', like the depressing example recently on view in Piccadilly, will continue to take up precious ground space. The housing estates now being adopted in various bombed areas, show, it is true, some understanding, but fall far short of the principles of the 'radiant city.'

M. le Corbusier's book is a moving and eloquent plea for boldness and imagination. He writes with both wit and humour; and that he has a lively idiomatic style can be inferred from the translation, which seems admirably to have caught the spirit of the original.

On p. 21 for 'Parthenon' read 'Pantheon'.

W. H.

COMMON OR GARDEN. By Julian. Illustrated by Sir Francis Rose. (John Miles; 8s. 6d.)

The title of this cheerful little book does scant justice to the uncommon knowledge which flavours Julian's second book of selections from her weekly column in the *Catholic Herald*. Here is an ideal Christmas present for garden and nature lovers. The legends and lore concerning familiar birds, beasts and flowers will cause readers to see these with fresh and loving eyes. Notes on the cultivation and uses of herbs, will, let us hope, stimulate housewives to exciting adventures in seasoning 'austerity' menus. Advice from Culpepper and Gerard as to herbal remedies and comforts should shorten the chemist's bill. While the book is attractively produced, one could wish that the illustrations were more in keeping with the straightforward simplicity of the author's style.

JANET CLEEVES

SEVENTEENTH SUMMER. By Maureen Daly. (Hollis and Carter; 9s. 6d.)

This young Irish-American journalist has made in her first novel a new contribution to Catholic fiction. It is a closely observed and revealing picture of ordinary folk: the scene being set in a provincial town, Fond du Lac, Wisconsin. Angie, the second youngest of four girls, tells the tale of all that happened during the holidays from college—her *Seventeenth Summer*. In that Miss Daly does not sound the depths of human life in order to point to the solution of its problems in Christianity, her story avoids that sordid unpleasantness which seems so often to be, in modern literature at any rate, a necessary preliminary to this conclusion. To say this is not to imply an overpoweringly pious atmosphere, but rather, an overdose of sentimentality. The author has the feeling of a poet for nature, and many passages on the beauties of woodland and lake are real achievements in word-painting. The natural, unselfconscious religion of young American Catholics, exemplified in the two chief characters of the book, is moreover always refreshing.

G.D.S.