

Blackfriars

religion,' he says, on p. 193, 'is the best preparation for life that we can give our youth.' Children learn by doing is a principle that can, in various ways suggested by the author, be adopted in the teaching of religion. The best way to learn about Holy Mass is to go to Mass. A most commendable paragraph on the value of instruction during Mass occurs on pp. 242-3. Excellent suggestions for instructions on the *Mysterium Fidei* are found at the end of the books.

Through the telling of stories about Our Lord we can fill the imagination even of babies so that they will 'busy their minds about Him.'

'Our chief work is to teach Him and so to teach Him that He may fascinate their young hearts and hold them fast for ever' (p.232). To this high and responsible task the teacher should come duly prepared. Not merely must he be skilled in his profession, but he should love and study regularly the sacred Liturgy and the Holy Gospels, 'above all, praying the Holy Spirit to illumine his mind to understand' (p.234). Over and over again we are reminded of Christ's methods as the Divine Teacher. 'The chief thing to remember is that Christ, the Catechist, did not teach His pupils everything. Not a little was left to the silent, slow working of the Holy Ghost' (p. 18).

T.L.

VIA ROMANA. By E. C. Alder. (Crosby Lockwood; 7/6.)

The *via Romana* was for Rosemary Trevor the path of charity. We meet her at school and accompany her through some years of discontent at home and in an Anglican Sisterhood to the doors of the Catholic Church; we enter with her—and her burden—and do not lose her until she has won our sympathy. But we often find it difficult to be patient with her: certainly she was badly brought up (by an over-indulgent father whose widow was hard and narrow) and she was eventually crippled by amateurs and quacks who sought to help her; but had she used the intelligence we are often told she possessed, I think she would have had an easier journey before, and, surely to goodness, after, her submission; if at school she had been acknowledged the prig she undoubtedly was, she might have ceased to be one earlier than a few months before her death; and if she had been smacked as a child there would have been none of this story to be told.

R.R.