

PAX CHRISTI: The Peace of Christ. A New Policy for Christendom To-day. By the Rev. Albert D. Belden. (Unwin; 3s. 6d.)

Dr. Belden starts from two postulates: that for the Mystical Body to be split asunder by war is an intolerable situation, which causes widespread distress of conscience; and that if the 500,000,000 Christians in the world agreed to outlaw war there would be no more war. He goes on, therefore, to argue, not for pacifism in the usual sense, but for this formal act of outlawry: he appeals for a promise on the part of the individual Christian to adhere to it when sufficient numbers shall have been mustered to bring about an official declaration from the Church leaders. The book is written with a sincerity and courage which command sympathy. But while the argument is weakened by the irrelevant inclusion of much that must alienate either the non-pacifist or the members of this or that Communion, one's main difficulty lies in the second postulate. It might well be verified if the Christians were evenly distributed throughout the nations of the world; but in fact there are nations in which the Christian minority is so small as to be quite negligible. The desired declaration therefore would put the predominantly Christian nations at their mercy: it would outlaw not war but defence. Dr. Belden insists that he is not arguing for pacifism, but appealing to all Christians alike: he must surely, then, meet this difficulty before his policy can be called practical.

G.V.

PASTOR'S PROGRESS. An autobiography. By Arthur W. Hopkinson. (Michael Joseph; 10s. 6d.)

This is a readable, often an entertaining book. The range of experience and acquaintance of the author ought to have made it an extremely valuable one; but the impression is that he fails to communicate: much is said that is important in the two hundred pages, but the total effect lacks unity: one has shared many disparate happenings without having met a person. This is partly the result of the technique: 'writing backwards' from the present to the past has much to commend it, but it calls for a subtlety and concentration far greater than it receives here. Catholics will read the book, it may be supposed, as a help to the understanding of the Anglican point of view. They will find that the author is able to combine a devotion to the tradition of the Tractarians with an interest in the spiritual healing movement and an extreme eclecticism in theology, but not with a sympathetic understanding of the Church: 'Rome disappointed me. And St. Peter's gave no impression but that of size. It could never be the central Church of Christendom.'

L.T.

THE NATURE OF CATHOLICITY. By Daniel T. Jenkins. (Faber; 5s.)

Mr. Jenkins, in this provocative little volume, attempts to define the 'essence' and qualities of the Catholic Church in the light of