

decimpotent sun, the undccimpotent galaxy and the duodecimpotent universe. And a six-dimensional framework (adequate at least to the first four levels of existence) is devised to supersede mere space-time, incorporating the dimensions of eternity and hyperaxis.

This is Mr Bennett's first volume. As the last two items in his list of contents put it: 'the present study restricted to facts only—study of values reserved for the next volume'.

TIMOTHY McDERMOTT, O.P.

UNUSUAL BAPTISMAL NAMES. By Fr Walter Gumbley, O.P., F.R.HIST. S. (Blackfriars Publications; 4s.)

This is a useful little book with an illuminating introduction by the author. Every presbytery would do well to have a copy, including those in the West Indies where people are afflicted with such unexpected and unauthorized names as Delicious Bonhomme, Happy Charles, Apple Baptiste and Precious John, to say nothing of Urica, Urina and Anodine.

On the other hand, with this valuable booklet before them, priests will beware of being too dogmatic in turning down suggested names which may indeed sound unusual but which in fact are perfectly authenticated Saints' names or at least derived therefrom. Alistair is a Scottish form of Alexander, Aubrey a form of Alberic, Etta of Antonina, Piers of Peter, Sonia of Sophia and Stasia of Anastasia. We have also to allow as Christian names Nigel, Noel, Olive, Patience, Prudence, Peregrine, Primula, Rhode, Romeo, Rory, and even Salome, though what parents would be likely to choose *that* name for their child?

Perhaps we could hardly expect the author to embrace the distant West Indies in his survey. But for future editions I would venture to suggest the following Christian names commonly accepted in those parts: Andy for Andrew, Claire for Clare, or for the author's Sinclair, originally St Clair. Also Eleanora as well as Ena and Altrude (both Reverend Mothers!) but perhaps the author does not consider these two names as unusual, and so does not record them.

But what of Hilfred, Hermetrude and Hermie? I hope some justification will be found for these, for, to be sure, the author allows Trude and Truda. And what of Susette as a diminutive of Susan, for Nannette is allowed, as well as Ivette for Ivy?

As a final shock, I may mention that, with the exceptions of February, September, November and December, all the months of the year are Saints' names.

RAYMUND DEVAS, O.P.