

Among the contributors is Dr Havard, an English doctor who writes, out of wide experience, on Psychology. But throughout this work it is a case of men writing for religious women. No doubt there are many of these ladies who could with advantage express their own views from the feminine angle.

The elements of Canon Law are simply expressed by Fr Delchard, S.J. It does not seem that always a clear distinction is made between a nun and a sister. Superiors of independent monasteries are classified as higher superiors. Although it is true that an occasional confessor may not enter the enclosure of nuns, he may do so for a sick nun in virtue of Canon 60, n.2. It is usefully remarked that in controlling correspondence the Superior must not acquaint herself with family secrets, still less spread them abroad, and must be absolutely discreet by being bound by professional secrecy. An indulgence of secularisation must be freely asked and accepted by the subject, and therefore cannot be commanded under obedience.

There are practical suggestions regarding the simplification of work, the use of machinery for better return of work, and such practical matters as central heating.

The book is well produced, and greatly to be recommended. There is a slight slip on p. 251 in assigning *Quadragesimo Anno* to Leo XIII.

AMBROSE FARRELL, O.P.

A HISTORY OF PALESTINE. From 135 A.D. to Modern Times. By James Parkes. (Gollancz; 21s.)

To undertake such a work as this requires courage. At any time the history of Palestine is a difficult subject; so many currents have met there, that few countries present material so difficult to set in order. But Dr Parkes has been even more bold than appears at first, for he tells the history of the country in order to give background to the modern Palestinian problem of Jew and Arab, and about one third of the book is concerned directly with the events of the present century. In the preface any specialist scholarship is disclaimed, and indebtedness to authoritative works freely acknowledged. Frankly secondary, therefore, this book nevertheless stands alone as an introduction to Palestinian history. It strives, with remarkable success, to be fair and balanced in its judgments, whether discussing the crusades, the Mamluks, the Turks or the modern Arab. The style is readable, and there is a good bibliography which indicates not only secondary authorities, but also some important primary sources. There are occasional points with which one might find fault, (it is amusing to read that Frederick II was 'bullied' by the pope), and the index is not very satisfactory. But these things do little to lessen appreciation of a careful work which is likely to remain useful for a considerable time. ANTHONY ROSS, O.P.