

Reformation they meant something beyond that. Again, one is tempted to ask why the conservatives of Henry VIII's reign should so confidently have regarded heresy as sedition and orthodoxy as its antidote, when the Catholic fifteenth century had been so greatly disturbed. Had the early Tudors really done their work of consolidation so well that their achievement led their subjects to forget the past? Finally, a fuller discussion of the Protestant reaction in the last year of Henry's reign would have been valuable. The problem is relegated to a footnote, rather undeservedly.

The volume is equipped with five appendices, the last two of which are especially valuable, giving the academic and ecclesiastical status of all the bishops of the period; there is a bibliography of printed books (which disappointingly omits Fr Philip Hughes's recent work) and an excellent index. On page 108, note 11, 'Magdalene' should be so spelt, and on page 200, note 41, 'Henry VIII' should of course be read for 'Henry VII'.

THE TUDOR AGE. By A. J. Williamson. (Longmans; 25s.)

This is an honest and very competent text-book of the period 1485-1603. Political and economic history are treated in detail, and excellent pages are, in particular, devoted to the Navy, and to the oceanic enterprises of the sixteenth century. Constitutional history is sadly neglected, so that the reader loses a total view of the development and significance of the period; and strangely enough, for all the economic pre-occupations of the book, the vital changes inside English society in these years are rather scantily discussed. It is perhaps to be expected that the literary and intellectual background should be wholly neglected, although religious history, if told without much enthusiasm, is given very fair treatment.

Mr Williamson has very properly avoided controversial judgments, but rather refers the reader to more detailed or partisan works; and similarly, while he has incorporated the latest research into his book, he has been laudably tentative in his approach to new theories that have yet to prove themselves. Altogether, Mr Williamson's book can be safely recommended as an introduction to Tudor history.

There is an excellent table of contents, a good index, and a short bibliography. In future editions, the books and articles referred to in footnotes might well also be listed at the end.

T. G. I. HAMNETT

STUDIES IN STUART WALES. By A. H. Dodd. (University of Wales Press; 15s.)

In these six studies Professor A. H. Dodd has given us a masterly survey of what is to a great extent an untilled field. To the general

reader the chapter on the Social Order is likely to prove the most interesting section of the book on account of the admirable view of life in seventeenth-century Wales that is provided. The account of the lesser gentry and of the relationship between landlord and tenant is particularly valuable. The extent to which rents were paid in kind resembles the position throughout Scotland at this period. Professor Dodd has an excellent brief account of the houses of the tenantry.

The description of the typical manor house is also clear. The author stresses the small scale of the buildings compared to those erected in England at this time. There was a tendency as at Glyn Cywarch to set up a second house close to an existing one rather than to enlarge the original building. A detailed study of Welsh seventeenth-century houses would prove of value. It is one of the many merits of Professor Dodd's new volume that it constantly suggests subjects for more detailed enquiry. The section on education in the general survey is full of interest. The contacts between various colleges and specific Welsh counties would repay study. The link between Anglesey and St John's College, Cambridge, is a case in point.

Professor Dodd's second chapter deals with the influence of Ludlow and the third is entitled 'Wales and Ireland'. The long fourth chapter, 'Nerth y Committee', will have the greatest appeal to those who have a detailed interest in the political and social history of Wales in the seventeenth century. A mass of detail relating to Welsh life under the Commonwealth and Protectorate is set out very lucidly. Throughout all these balanced and scholarly studies the points made by Professor Dodd convince the reader. The last two sections of the book on 'The Dawn of Party Politics' and 'The Glorious Revolution' are of a more general character. It is to be hoped that Professor Dodd may have time to undertake a general history of Wales from the period of the Reformation to the present day. He is admirably qualified to present a most interesting and convincing picture. *Studies in Stuart Wales* should find a place in every library which has a section devoted to the history of that country.

DAVID MATHEW

THE POLISH NATIONAL CATHOLIC CHURCH in America and Poland.

By Theodore Andrews, TH.D. (S.P.C.K.; 12s. 6d.)

The Polish National Catholic Church (which must not be confused with the Mariavite movement in Poland itself) had its principal origin in a Polish parish at Scranton, Pennsylvania, where a schism began in 1897. Other groups of clergy and lay people joined it, and its leader, Father Francis Hodur, was consecrated bishop by the Old Catholic archbishop of Utrecht (Gerard Gul) ten years later. In 1923, through the initiative of a missionary from America, the first P.N.C.C. parish in