

must decide for himself. But all will immediately be struck by the brilliance of Monsignor Knox in *The man who tried to convert the Pope*, and enchanted to find that both the man and his attempt are historical facts. Bishop Mathew in *The Library at Naworth* shows great skill in painting in words a telling portrait of the Caroline nobleman, Sir William Howard, a picture that explains much in the too dim light that still shrouds the lives of unobtrusive but important figures in the story of English Catholicism in the early seventeenth century. His brother, Father Gervase Mathew, goes back to a far more distant period in his close study of 'a group of manuscripts suggesting an unexpected link between the twelfth century Byzantine court in its effortless sophistication and the early years of the University (of Oxford) with the quick clamour of its city schools.'

In *The piety of Cicely, Duchess of York*, C. A. J. Armstrong helps us to a better understanding of Catholic England fifty years before the dawn of disaster. An essay that will gladden the hearts of all lovers of English literature is *The meaning of Anthony Trollope* by Christopher Hollis, a superb piece of writing. The volume closes with two important historical papers, *The Pre-Conquest Saints of Canterbury*, by W. A. Pantin, and *The Myth of Arthur* by David Jones, on both of which we should like to dwell did not economy of space forbid us.

WALTER GUMBLEY, O.P.

PONTIFICAL CEREMONIES. By Pierce Ahearne, D.D., B.C.L., and Michael Lane, S.T.L., B.A. (Burns Oates; 15s.)

This book is a concise and useful guide to those pontifical ceremonies that are more likely to be met with occasionally in the life of an ordinary parish. Besides High and Requiem Mass, celebrated by the Bishop or in his presence, and the Bishop's Low Mass, the pontifical form of the Holy Week Offices and that for the Feast of the Purification are described; then follows the rite of Episcopal Visitation, Confirmation, and Pontifical Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. Four pontifical blessings are finally given, including the beautiful but somewhat rare rite for the blessing of bells. For the more complicated ceremonies the authors give first a summary description of the whole rite, and then an account of the part to be played by each separate minister. This arrangement saves time in the preparation of the ceremony, and helps each participant to see his own function as a part of the whole action.

A reading of this work, and any experience of episcopal ceremonies in smaller churches, makes one wish for a simplification of some of the commoner pontifical functions—Pontifical High Mass especially. The rubrics envisage a large cathedral sanctuary with no limit to the number of servers, and with the chapter in attendance too. There is no provision for the small parish church which is

hard put to it to arrange for an ordinary High Mass, and which cannot possibly find in addition an assistant priest and assistant deacons for a pontifical ceremony. Indeed, if one strictly adhered to the rules, it would be almost impossible to celebrate Pontifical High Mass outside the Cathedral or a college, since 'When the Bishop of the Diocese celebrates Pontifical Mass at the throne the chanting of the Office of Terce . . . is obligatory' (p. 17). Holy Mother Church has conceded to those with a small church and a limited number of assistants a simplified rite for Holy Week in the *Memoriale Rituum*: may we not hope that some day we may be allowed something similar for Pontifical High Mass, to be used only, of course, in places where the full ceremony is impossible? A small parish wants to do the best it can when the Bishop honours it with a visit, but at present it will have to cut out its usual *Missa Cantata* and be content with a Low Mass if the Bishop is to be present in the sanctuary.

B.N.

THE FUTURE OF FAITH: A DIVERSITY OF VIEWS. Edited by Percy Colson, with a Preface by Lord Vansittart. (Hurst and Blackett; 6s.)

This collection of 'views,' by no means always on faith, is not a sufficiently thoughtful or valuable exposé on the part of the editor or authors to merit strong commendation. 'You may be interested' would be a pleasing title to read on boards and books these times. The essays betray the tragedy of human self-confidence without confidence in God. Unhappily only three or four of the twenty papers recognise the existence even of this tragedy. Not because they write specifically on faith, or its future, but because you may like to be directed round rather than through this maze we would notice the papers on *The simple religion of Jesus Christ* by the Rev. Leslie Weatherhead, on *Education* by Basil A. Yeaxlee, and on *The Natural Law* by Christopher Dawson. You may be interested by others' 'Views'; by these perhaps we would all be the better for being interested.

P.P.F.

YOUR CATHOLIC LANGUAGE. By Mary Perkins. (Sheed and Ward; 8s. 6d.)

The author of *At Ease in the Catholic Church* has given us a new Church Latin book, based on the Mass, and designed for those who are anxious to become acquainted with Latin without taking much trouble. The Latin of the Mass is given on each left-hand page, with a literal interlinear translation. The right-hand pages contain grammatical explanations. Patient conning of the interlinear translation will no doubt in time produce a measure of understanding of the Latin text, but if the book be intended (as would seem to be