

## BOOK REVIEWS

A CATECHISM OF CHRISTIAN DOCTRINE, as approved by the Archbishops and Bishops of England and Wales, and directed by them to be used in all their Dioceses. (Printed and published at St. Dominic's Press, Ditchling, Sussex; 15/- net.)

To be told you can now buy the Penny Catechism for fifteen shillings may sound at the first blush a very dubious benefit. Yet we venture to express the belief that the happy thought that suggested so beautiful an edition of the Catechism will be fully justified. Surely there must be at least five hundred people (five hundred is the limit of this edition) who will want to have a copy of this spiritual classic such as can stand the test of time. Of all the millions of copies of the Catechism which have been, and will be, printed, which are daily thumbed and torn and in general consumed in their use, how many will survive? As a concise compendium of Theology and Philosophy and a brief sum total of Christian wisdom there is no other book in English to compare with the Catechism. Something more than genius has gone to its making and, occasionally at least, it would seem to deserve a better setting than the vile print and cheap paper which are its usual accompaniments. This is the first attempt to provide a library edition of the Catechism. I wonder with what success one could apply at Bodley's (for all its embarrassing wealth in wisdom) for a copy of the Catholic Catechism! St. Dominic's Press has now left such libraries without an excuse for such an inability in future. Printed by hand on hand-made paper, adorned with wood-cuts by Philip Hagen, and strongly bound, the book is one that will keep and that people will want to keep.

THE LIVES OF THE SAINTS. By Alban Butler. A new edition. Corrected, amplified and edited by Herbert Thurston, S.J., and Norah Leeson. Vol. III, March. (Burns, Oates and Washbourne, 1931; 7/6 net.)

Alban Butler never can be superseded. His scholarship and encyclopaedic learning (of which even Gibbon spoke with respect), his accuracy and power of research, and his thoroughly orthodox yet sober and moderate Catholicism, place him in the front rank of English hagiologists. But, in view of present-day growth in historical knowledge, he requires to be supple-