

THE CHURCH'S MINISTRY. By T. W. Manson, D.D. (Hodder & Stoughton; 6s.)

The Rylands Professor of Biblical Exegesis has published four lectures, of which the subject was suggested by a study of the recent Anglican symposium 'The Apostolic Ministry', edited by Dr Kirk. The present author is a Congregationalist. His aim is critical and conciliatory. He wishes to find a basis for the mutual recognition of Anglican and Free Church ministries, of the hierarchic and charismatic traditions. His attempted solution is that of acknowledging only one 'essential' ministry, that of Christ himself. All others are derived from this and are mere functions of Christ's Body, the Church. Ministries are made valid by Christ's call and the gift of the Holy Spirit. Their validity is manifested by their fruits, the 'signs of an Apostle'. The part of ecclesiastical authority is not to confer the ministry, but to recognise and accept it. In this solution, the hierarchical element, one of those that were to be reconciled, seems to have vanished. The author has not realised that both elements are in fact preserved in harmony in the historic Catholic Church.

DOM J. HIGGENS

CANONISATION AND AUTHORITY IN THE WESTERN CHURCH. By Eric Waldham Kemp. (Oxford University Press; 12s. 6d.)

The aim of this study is 'to trace the history of the public recognition of saints and thus to throw light upon one aspect of the development of ecclesiastical authority'. Here we have, in the light of history, an examination of the cult accorded to the Saints in the early Church and through the ages, and of the process of canonisation. The work is accomplished in eight chapters with three appendices. With true scholarship Mr Kemp has made a valuable contribution to learning and to the study of an intricate question. It would appear that he masses his historical materials to make them converge on the question of authority to which one chapter is devoted. The book is full of detail and rich in sources. The writer is certainly to be congratulated for the competence with which he has handled his materials. The English causes which are summarised or referred to have an especial interest. Both the successful and the unsuccessful processes are listed in an appendix. They are dealt with in greater detail in the text.

AMBROSE FARRELL, O.P.

THE BARQUE OF PETER. By Olive Mary Scanlon. (5s.)

MARY'S ROSARY. By Father Canice, O.F.M.Cap. (3d.)

(Both from Gill and Son, Dublin.)

*The Barque of Peter* consists of ten stories, concerning such things as Indulgences, Confession, Miracles, etc., or telling quite simply about conversions. Two of these are true stories, one that of the authoress herself. The book should be a real help to many and may

perhaps set some souls on the way to conversion, who otherwise would never have considered the Faith at all. *The Barque of Peter* is beautifully printed in large, pleasant type on good paper. We would make one little criticism: the authoress seems to our taste over fond of the pluperfect. We wonder how many times the word 'had' occurs. However, that is a small point.

*Mary's Rosary* is quite excellent. We wonder in how many books, much less booklets, the explanation of the actual word 'Rosary' is given, as here. There are many quotations from Papal Encyclicals, also some fresh meditations. The objection 'Vain Repetition', so often made to the prayers of the Rosary, is dealt with in a masterly manner, and the real usefulness of the repetition of vocal prayers in the Rosary is shown.

G. B.

SAINT MUNGO'S BAIRNS. By Marion Lockhead. (Moray Press; 8s. 6d.)

Saint Mungo's Bairns is the story, told for children, of the growth of the city of Glasgow. Its history is seen through the eyes of the children of the town. Each period introduces different children with their own little story to tell, thus showing how the ordinary people lived, as well as the chief historical events. So many different characters may prove rather confusing to young readers, but on the whole it is a good and original way of presenting history.

S. M. F.

NAZARETH. By Dom J. K. Scheuber, O.S.B. Translated, etc., by Archdeacon N. S. MacMahon. (Eason & Son, Dublin; prices from 6s. to 13s. 6d.)

This well-produced book of prayers and instruction on the sacrament of marriage contains translations of several prayers and liturgical customs not easily found elsewhere, e.g., the betrothal prayer, and blessing of the mother-to-be. The Catholic ideal of marriage and married conduct is clearly outlined but with the exception of the brief extracts from Pope Pius XII's addresses to the newly-wed, one could wish the language was a little less artificial. The book is particularly addressed to women but no man can fail to learn from it something of practical assistance for the realisation of a happy and successful marriage.

N. T.

MARRIAGE PRELIMINARIES: THE INSTRUCTIO 'SACROSANCTUM', 29 JUNE 1941, WITH A COMMENTARY. By E. J. Mahoney. (Burns Oates; 6s.)

The new instructions concerning marriage, called for by the disturbing conditions of the post-war period, are very complicated. but it is of the utmost importance for the clergy to master them.