

## Book Reviews

counting up our gains, and foremost among them ranks the astonishing solidity of the work done since 1829. But what are we doing to meet, not so much our own needs as those of the missions to whom the alternative is presenting itself with ever-growing clarity—the Catholic Church or what? Long ago we realised here the need—in theory at least—of an intensive education both for priests and laity. Are we ready to take our place, are the laity and the clergy a thoroughly well-instructed body? If so, well and good. But if not—? Here the 'religious' world is in a ferment, practically in a state of dissolution. We know what we have to offer; but the question is whether we are in a position to offer it; whether our literature, our lives, are such as will make the earnest but bewildered seeker say: 'There is the solution of my difficulties'?

These are some of the problems discussed by Mr. Williams for the America of the immediate future. But they are ours, too, and no celebrations of our great centenary can be adequate unless they look forward as well as backward. The foundation work has been done, and magnificently done, by our fathers who are dead: 'they have laboured, and we have entered into the fruit of their labours.' But the 'fruit' of those labours is no idle acquiescence in what they have won for us but strenuous effort that others too may enjoy that fruit. H.P.

INDULGENCES: THEIR ORIGIN, NATURE AND DEVELOPMENT. By His Eminence Cardinal Alexis Lepicier, O.S.M. Third English Edition, revised and enlarged. (Burns, Oates and Washbourne; pp. xiv, 491; 10/6.)

It would be superfluous to praise a work now already in its third English edition, and from the pen of a theologian such as His Eminence. Part I deals with the doctrinal aspect of the question, pp. 1-44. We could wish it had been fuller, notably on the 'Treasury of the Church' and the power of the keys. The views of Alexander of Hales, too, might have been given in more detail, for they are of importance. The historical aspect of the question, Part II, pp. 145-491, is of great interest and value. For the controversialist it is a mine of information, while the concluding chapter on the part played by Indulgences in our spiritual life is eminently practical. The Cardinal's sojourn in England has given him a remarkable familiarity with the English mind, also with things generally little known on the Continent—for instance, the Thirty-Nine Articles of Religion. H.P.