

Blackfriars

Thus if ten persons were baptised it would be inaccurate to say 'There were ten baptisms' and accurate to say 'There is one Baptism; ten persons received this one Baptism.' Or, again, if ten persons received the sacrament of Holy Eucharist it would be inaccurate to say 'There were ten Holy Eucharists' and accurate to say 'There is one Holy Eucharist; ten persons received this one Holy Eucharist.'

So, too, there is but one Sacrifice. And if ten priests offer up Holy Mass it would be inaccurate to say 'There were ten sacrifices of the Body and Blood of Christ' and accurate to say 'There is but one Sacrifice of the Body and Blood of Christ; ten priests offered it up'—*i.e.*, not in its motus-actio mode, but in its motus-passio or applicatory mode.

V.McN.

LIFE OF ST. ALPHONSUS MARIA DI LIGUORI. By a Sister of Notre Dame. (Burns, Oates and Washbourne, Ltd.; 4/6 net.)

Few among the saints have had a more tender and ardent love for God and souls than St. Alphonsus, and few certainly have suffered more poignantly for that twofold love. Yet to the general public little is known of the life of this great saint. How many who continually use and love—for instance—his *Visits to the Blessed Sacrament* know anything more than the name of the writer?

This short life of him will doubtless introduce him to those to whom the fuller lives are inaccessible, though it were preferable that these should be read later. The present book is carefully but—especially in the first half—somewhat drily written. One has the impression of being carefully shown round St. Alphonsus by a very conscientious guide. It is a history, but not a living portrait, and while admiring the former one would prefer the latter.

M.M.

LIFE IN THE MIDDLE AGES. By G. G. Coulton. Vols. 1, 2, and 3. (Cambridge University Press; 7/6 net each.)

There are many ways of approaching a past civilisation, and each specialist is tempted to identify his part with the whole. The historian of the art of the middle ages, for example, would lead us to believe that nothing existed but cathedrals: the liturgist confines reality to choir schools and the Sarum Rite: the lawyer confounds the life of a nation with the development of