

Troup, whose book, *The Western Rebellion of 1549*, is the principal work of importance on the subject of the revolt in Devon and Cornwall, is transmogrified in a footnote into 'Fr. Rose-Troup.' It might perhaps be argued that the picture of Protector Somerset as the enlightened Liberal statesman, born before his time, is less convincing to-day than it used to be. There is something uncomfortably reminiscent of the Third Republic in the make-up of the Protector.

As is probably inevitable, the book has something of the atmosphere of an expertly conducted tour of a recent battlefield, a battlefield still scarred and blasted by political and theological controversy. Most of the corpses have been identified, and the principal heroes interred and posthumously decorated: but everywhere the debris lies thick. When Taine pictured the old divines as giant ichthyosaurians or megatheria, slowly winding their way through the primeval slime, armed with syllogisms and bristling with texts, to rend each other in gigantic conflict, his simile seemed less actual than it does to-day. The truth, as we are beginning to realise to-day, is that we are in grave danger of picturing the Reformation struggle as a kind of theological tank battle, absorbingly interesting to the expert, but frequently a little bewildering to the mere layman. A satisfactory account of the English Reformation—and this is particularly true of the years 1547 to 1553—must be concerned to interweave the social, economic and psychological strands into the whole complicated web. To this the Abbé Constant's book is a really important contribution; but a thoroughly satisfactory account remains to be written.

THOMAS CHARLES-EDWARDS.

SACRIFICIAL PRIESTHOOD. By Joseph Barker, C.R. (Dacre Press; 1s. 6d.)

This essay is mainly concerned with the Godward function of the priest and is written for the benefit of the Anglican clergy to encourage them to face the problem of private and frequent celebration of the Eucharist. The pastoral and prophetic side of their function has been sufficiently dealt with, 'but it is not always clearly understood that there is a side of the ministry in which the priest stands in direct relation to God.' With this in view the author briefly sketches the development of the priest's functions in the Eucharist during the first nine centuries, for the later doctrine of the Church as summarised by Trent will not be acceptable to his readers. Indeed, the author himself is for this reason strangely blind to the full meaning of sacrifice. He thinks that the 'theory' that two Masses have more value than one 'is not in the best Christian tradition,' implying the notion, false in his eyes, that 'each Mass is an additional application of the benefits of Calvary for some purpose on earth.' But in so short a space the author cannot attempt any valuable discussion on the nature of sacrifice. In passing, he makes

some excellent and practical remarks. 'No prayer can be heard unless it is actually incorporated into that Sacrifice (of Calvary).' 'Ordination is not to be used as an aid to doing work which can be adequately performed by others.' 'In all his activities and functions, the priest must beware of the selfishness which creeps in and is capable of spoiling the most efficient work. As soon as a priest begins to attract men to himself, or to suppose that he is doing his work simply in his own strength, instead of leading them on to God and acting as the divine instrument, he is in peril.'

C.P.

LE SERPENT D'AIRAIN, CINQ MYSTERES EN FORME DE RÉTABLE. Par René Schwob. (Edition L'Arbre, Montreal; \$1.50.)

This first volume contains three plays: 'La Nuit de Noël,' 'L'Adoration des Majes,' and 'Le Drame de la Passion.' A second volume will contain 'La Descente aux Enfers' and 'La Pentecôte.' The three plays in this first volume are beautiful. René Schwob is certainly a poet. He has captured the mediaeval spirit successfully, and has, by his originality, given his plays a vitality and charm that are his own. A real artist can always draw from the limitless depths of the Gospels some new light. In the present case a poet has seen and is able to make others see, if they are receptive, a fresh and lovely vision of the eternal story. It is interesting to note that 'La Nuit de Noël' was performed in a church, at Vence, on the Christmas Eve of 1940. An oasis of peace in the horrible desert of war.

H.S.S.

A BOOK OF SHIPS. By Charles Mitchell. (King Penguin; 1s.)

A little volume for keeps, this trim and tidily account of sail in the western world from the bark of Dionysus in a fifth century B.C. vase painting to *Cutty Sark*; of long ships and round ships; of the influence of the North Sea on the Mediterranean in design; of the change in tactics from ramming to broadside firing. There are sixteen coloured plates, including reproductions of Van der Velde, and eleven black-and-white illustrations.

T.G.

THE CATHOLIC DIRECTORY FOR 1942 (7s. 6d.) appears in its usual form in spite of the fact that this edition has had to be completely re-set as the type of the former edition was destroyed in an air raid. In addition to this, the difficulties from evacuation and general war conditions have been considerable, so that the Editor is to be congratulated on its comparatively few mistakes. THE CATHOLIC WHO'S WHO can only rise to a Supplement (2s. 6d.) bringing the 1941 edition up to date, but giving all essential changes and continuing quite clearly the utility of the former volume. THE CATHOLIC