

be bold enough to try to draw the limits of that common law offence. I would have thought the difficulty of a businessman pushing the limits of the law are just as great as those of a clergyman trying to understand what behaviour is going to get him into trouble.

But this quibble aside, this is an excellent book dealing with a real problem. Bishops have immense power over their clergy and it may be that such power is needed. But it should be subject to the principles of natural justice and fairness. The reluctance of courts to interfere with that power means that any such control must come from new legislation. This book carefully discusses the question, exploring what possible rights a clergyman may have in law. The section on judicial review is very clear and I would recommend it to anyone who would wish a straightforward guide to this difficult subject.

Tom Culver, Barrister

*INFANT BAPTISM: The 1983 Code of Canon Law and Church of England Law* by ROBERT OMBRES OP, Pontificia Studiorum Universitas A.S. Thoma Aq. In Urbe Rome: 1999, 261 pp (paperback).

As the author himself stresses, Robert Ombres' doctoral thesis on infant baptism was motivated by the belief that 'Comparative canon law is an ecumenical necessity'. Although it does not ignore the law of the Eastern Catholic Churches, it is primarily concerned with the legal systems of the Latin Church and the Church of England. 'Each system is approached on its own terms and respecting its own inner juridical dynamic to avoid distortions by premature comparison' (p 1) and it is this that gives the work its particular strength, even though the author is naturally most at home when considering the law of the Latin Church. The study is written with the clarity of thought and expression that any of those lucky enough to have heard Robert Ombres at the Society's annual conference at York would naturally expect.

Proceeding from the bedrock of theology and tradition it compares the law relating to baptism in each Church with sympathy and understanding. The result is not only an impressive demonstration of the use of comparative law but also a useful reminder of the limitations of both legal systems due to their divergent approaches to jurisprudence. In sum, this study is an important stepping stone in ecumenical jurisprudence and should be warmly welcomed not only for its elucidation of infant baptism but also for its demonstration of the importance of both systems one to the other.

The Revd and Worshipful Rupert D.H. Bursell

*THE GOLDEN YOKE: The Legal Cosmology of Buddhist Tibet* by REBECCA REDWOOD FRENCH, Cornell University Press, 1995, xx + 404 pp (£27.95) ISBN 0-8014-3084-4.

Few places have exercised such a hold on the imagination as Tibet, the land of magic and mystery beyond the Himalayas. Tibetan Buddhism, initially received in the West as 'Lamaism', a corrupt and decadent form of the religion, is today recognised as a formidable philosophical and psychological system which has a powerful appeal for a great many in the secularised West. Recent Hollywood films have told the story of the present Dalai Lama from his 'discovery' to his flight into exile in India. Today he is probably the most respected religious leader in the world, attracting massive paying audiences for his teaching sessions in the capitals of the West.