

THREE CARDINALS. By E. E. Reynolds. (Burns Oates; 25s.)

Three cameo portraits embellish the dust-jacket of this interesting triple biography: Newman, venerable, hawk-like; Manning, forbidding, tight-lipped; Wiseman, watchful, almost benign. It is clever to present in this pictorial way 'the three Cardinals who played the leading parts in the development of the Roman Catholic Church in England during the second half of the nineteenth century'.

After a brief summary of the state of religion in England in the early nineteenth century, Mr Reynolds begins his biographical studies with Newman, who was born in London in 1801. Nicholas Wiseman comes next as he was born the following year, of Irish parents, in Seville. Manning, born in 1808, makes up the trio of men whose lives were to have such a profound effect on Catholic life in England. Their stories are told at first individually; then they intermingle.

Mr Reynolds asserts frankly that his book 'is not based on unpublished material'. His purpose, successfully accomplished, was to compare the personalities of the three Cardinals, their 'development and achievements and, at the same time, to note their relations one with another'. Mr Reynolds has done well to compress so succinctly the story of these three lives which had such impact on the development of Catholicism in England.

KIERAN MULVEY, O.P.

THEY SAW IT HAPPEN, 1689-1897. By T. Charles-Edwards and Brian Richardson. (Basil Blackwell; 21s.)

The fact that Dr David Mathew, distinguished historian and writer, has written an appreciative introduction to this third volume of the 'They Saw It Happen' series is sufficient indication and guarantee of its worth. 'We all need to study the materials for History', Dr Mathew writes, 'and in this volume a selection of the sources of a prolonged and changing period is set out for us.' Mr T. Charles-Edwards and Mr B. Richardson, Assistant Masters at Ampleforth College, have pieced together a fascinating collection of eye-witness accounts of events in British history between 1689 and 1897. As the authors point out, 'the story of the eye-witness is not history, but a part of the material of history'. Different viewpoints of the same event or of the same personality are fairly presented.

Inevitably, there are many extracts about battles, naval and military, which certainly make exciting reading. There are, too, reflections on the religious life of the people, their recreations, social evils, and much, as one would expect, concerning politics and politicians. Royal occasions and royal personages are presented in a vivid on-the-spot way. Even the remote Victoria seems quite human in one of her dear