

UNUSUAL BAPTISMAL NAMES. By Fr Walter Gumbley, O.P. (Blackfriars Publications; 4s.)

In ages less sophisticated than our own, names held a far greater prophetic significance than they do for us now. But to the Christian this should be no less vivid: 'thou shalt call his name Jesus; for he shall save his people from their sins'; and the patronage of the saint whose name we are given is simply an aspect of the doctrine of the Communion of Saints and the Mystical Body. These are the considerations which underlie the Church's insistence on a saint's name being used in baptism; and which have led Fr Walter Gumbley to produce this useful and interesting little book. In it he lists about 400 names which might not be recognized as saint's names, giving the derivation of each and a few brief facts about the saint who bore it. It will be useful to parish priests and parents who are doubtful about the suitability of a name for baptism; and a wider public will find in it much of interest and even of entertainment. How many of us knew for instance that Stacey is a shortened form of Anastasius? or that Gwen is the Welsh form of the English Blanche or Candida? or that Irvine is a variant form of Urban? Many of the names are either contractions or different forms of more familiar ones; for example, Stanley is contracted from Stanislaus; while Eileen, Eleanor, Leonora, and Lorna are all derived from Helen. And it is good to know, too, that the English Martyrs have added to the Calendar Brian, Humphrey, Marmaduke, Miles, Percy, Ralph and Sydney.

F.R.

THE MODERN CHURCH. By Edward D. Mills. (The Architectural Press; 30s.)

The author begins with the correct idea of showing the modern church in its historical setting. But this is perhaps the weakest part of the book. The brief and sometimes jejune survey of the liturgical development of the Christian church would give little assistance to the uninstructed architect in understanding the significance of the various items of importance in the make-up of the building. But the rest of the book is a magnificent synopsis of modern needs and methods in constructing a place of worship for Catholics, Anglicans or Free Churchmen in England. The great number of principles and details covered in such a comparatively small space is a remarkable feat. And Mr Mills has at heart the spiritual needs of the modern Christian. In particular he sees the need for the church to be a community centre as it used to be, but as it has so often failed to be in the last century or so. The modern church must comprise other buildings as well as the actual place of worship: church parish halls equipped with a

stage where the various parochial societies may gather and where the community life engendered in the church itself may be fostered and carried into the lives of the members of the congregation, who are otherwise held apart by the structure of modern town life. To take one example, Mr Mills advocates a roomy entrance to the church where the congregation can circulate easily and the priest or minister can meet his parishioners informally. The author's own churches, here illustrated with a large number of other actual or projected churches, are excellently provided with a type of modern cloister outside the church door. This provides opportunity for encouraging the spirit of community life in the parish, which is also fostered by the hall with its stage and adjoining kitchen for light refreshments. Acoustics, heating and lighting, furnishing, glass, and religious art are all dealt with in a useful, practical manner. The many photographs include examples of the work of the outstanding contemporary architects and artists and this includes the work of silversmiths such as Dunstan Pruden and Michael Murray. A second edition will no doubt correct some of the slips such as: 'The essential conditions of the Roman Catholic Church in this respect are laid down in the Rubric, and Anglican requirements are covered by Canon Law' (p. 55), and the incorrect description of the photograph of a crematorium chapel on page 143.

CONRAD PEPLER, O.P.



NOTICES

THEY SAW HIS GLORY. By Maisie Ward. (Sheed and Ward; 16s.) This 'Introduction to the Gospels and Acts' is based on wide reading in works of good scholarship. A systematic student would miss an index and detailed references, but serious general readers for whom the book is intended might well relish the discursive, meditative handling of a great deal of information.

THE SACRAMENTS ARE OURS. By H. Tardif. Translated by Dom Aldhelm Dean. (Challoner Publications; 6s. 6d.)

THE SACRIFICE OF THE CHURCH: The Meaning of the Mass. By J. A. Jungmann, S.J. Translated by Clifford Howell, S.J. (Challoner Publications; 5s.) Two excellent books. The first stresses certain essential features of the sacramental life of the Church, and especially its corporate nature. The Bible, the Fathers and the Liturgy itself are extensively used in these instructions. The second is by the great authority on the Liturgy, Father Jungmann. He sets in their proper