

expressed will not command general assent. He quite clearly favours, for instance, the Scotist view that the Incarnation would have taken place even apart from the fact of sin. But he is most certainly justified in protesting against the 'commercial metaphors' to which the thomist view is often reduced in the hands of its less able practitioners. And, although the Epilogue might more suitably be called an appendix, all good thomists will agree with its main theme of an intellectual life integrated in grace, directed to eternity and finding here and now both apt expression and ample nourishment in the Liturgy.

EDWARD QUINN

THE PRIEST AS MINISTER OF CONFIRMATION. By E. J. Mahoney. (Burns Oates and Washbourne; 5s.)

Senior missionary priests in some missions have the faculty of conferring Confirmation. But this concession has been limited and for the most part the Holy See has insisted on the normal rule of Canon 788 being observed. This has meant, however, that since a Bishop alone could confer the sacrament as ordinary minister, many children as well as a good number of adults have died without the benefit of this sacrament. Though in the words of the decree *Spiritus Sancti* (September 14th, 1946), 'confirmation is not necessary for one's salvation, nevertheless its excellence and the abundance of precious gifts which it confers require that parish priests, and others who have the care of souls, must make every effort in securing that no Christian should, through lack of opportunity, forgo so great a mystery of saving redemption. It admirably assists us in our warfare against the wickedness of the devil and the allurements of the world and the flesh, obtains for us on earth an increase of grace and virtue, and in heaven an added glory.' That so many infants and children and even adults should in fact die without the help of this sacrament is a matter of grave concern to the Church. To provide against such a loss the Holy See has made a far-reaching change in his present legislation. A parish priest and others having the care of souls may now administer the sacrament of confirmation as extraordinary minister to those who are in danger of death. This new law is embodied in the decree mentioned above. Canon Mahoney gives a clear and helpful commentary on the text of the decree and on two later decrees on the same subject. Though it is meant primarily for parish priests, there is much in this book of sixty-six pages which will be read with interest and profit by the ordinary layman.

K. W.-G.