

*Hymnal*) seems inconsistent, and simply means having yet further variants of texts. On the whole they are accurate and easy to recite, though perhaps too inclined to use archaic phrases of the 'dire loss' and 'fell apple' variety.

The book is printed in Belgium, and will reassure its users by looking every inch a breviary. (It would have been pleasant if it could have been given the typographical freshness of, for instance the *Bréviaire des Fidèles*, published by Labergerie in 1951, which on many counts must be regarded as the best of vernacular adaptations of the Breviary.) Printed in Belgium on the slightly yellow paper one associates with the liturgical printing of that country, it has rubrics in proper red and a good honest type-face. But the illustrations (from a ninth-century Vulgate Bible) are a mistake: they are photographic reproductions, too small and too dim for easy recognition, which, one suspects, will provide novices with some extra distractions.

Such criticisms as these do not, of course, reflect on the excellent intentions of the *Little Breviary's* editors nor on the immense value of such a book for the religious life of communities of 'active' religious. The liturgical revival of the last few years depends greatly for its strength on the enthusiasm and knowledge of the countless thousands of Brothers and Sisters who are engaged in teaching. For them, in particular, the *Little Breviary* will be more than an enrichment of their own spiritual lives: it will place them in daily contact with that 'authentic form of Christian piety' which it must be their vocation to foster.

ILLTUD EVANS, O.P.

CARDINAL VON GALEN. By Heinrich Portmann. (Jarrolds; 21s.)

For most English readers it will be a complete revelation to read the full story of the war-time Bishop of Münster, the daring, outspoken opponent of National Socialism, described by Field-Marshal Montgomery as 'a great Christian leader, whose fearless defence of true Christianity in difficult times earned the respect of all denominations throughout the world'. His uncompromising attitude to the Nazis earned him the nickname among the German people of 'the Lion of Münster'.

Clemens August von Galen was a huge man in stature, a courageous defender of traditional German Catholicism. His first Lenten Pastoral, in 1934, began the attacks against National Socialism, which, at peril to his life, he continued to make until its collapse and destruction in defeat. The political opposition was only one side of his character. He was a man of integrity, of simplicity, in every sense *sacerdos magnus*. After reading this biography written by his former chaplain, and admirably translated and adapted by Brigadier R. K. Sidgwick, it is

no surprise to learn that in 1956 the present Bishop of Münster ordered 'the diocesan process—the necessary preliminary to a beatification—to open in regard to the late Cardinal'.

KIERAN MULVEY, O.P.

THE DESERT AND THE GREEN. The Autobiography of the Earl of Lytton. (Macdonald; 25s.)

For anyone who has the good fortune to be able to sit down and enjoy a few evenings with a really good book, I could not recommend a better one than the one under review. But, I insist on the leisure to read it! For it is written spaciouly, in a way which defies description. As I read, I felt sometimes that the words and sentences had come together haphazardly, without real pattern or style; and then at other times it seemed that the very charm of style and pattern was the looseness of narrative and the unexpected diversions.

Lord Lytton was a soldier bred, but not a soldier born. His book is the product of the whole man, and in it there is striking proof of the fact that he was not an ordinary soldier. Indeed, he was a soldier who disliked fighting and enjoyed philosophy; he was a sportsman, but was basically more interested in human beings than animals, probably because he had to pursue his object logically. His pursuit took him even beyond man—to God.

Descended from Lord Byron, Bulwer Lytton and Wilfred Scawen Blunt, his character was many-sided, so that it does not seem odd that he should combine a rugged exterior, a keen sense of humour, a fine brain and childlike simplicity. Above all, and standing out clearly through his writing, is the deep and living faith which has made him such an excellent example of the true Catholic layman. He was much influenced by his background, and managed in going through life to gain from every situation. Whether it was in his youthful meeting with Wilfred Scawen Blunt or in his later admiration for the writings of the Swedish Baron von Otter, who served in Africa with the British Forces of World War I, he picked from them lessons which he made useful to the building of his own character. There can be few serving officers who decided in the middle of their foreign service to study theology. But Lord Lytton did this, sending for the *Summa*, and receiving it by post, in instalments . . . and reading it!

But, I suppose I find the happiest paragraph of all is the last in the whole book. After what was by all standards a long and distinguished career, the unpredictable author returned from being a member of the Four-Power Government in Vienna to Exmoor, where he decided to marry. And so he turns freshly and happily from the task of settling the affairs of four nations to the present settling of the affairs of his four children.

MICHAEL HOLLINGS