

## Book Reviews

concerned. All lost causes live in a past and future which are infinitely more important to the life of the imagination than the unseizable present; and she rightly leaves no opportunity for retrospect and reverie unfulfilled. Her titular hero, 'Crumplin' is dead before the story opens; for 'Crumplin' was Yorkshire's affectionate nickname for the little son of Richard and Ann of Gloucester, whose idyllic princehood, passed among the chivalry of Middleham and the burgesses of York, is kept green here in the memories of his Benedictine tutor. If the book were written primarily as the story of its personages, it would be permissible to suggest that its characters—especially the two small princes—have a way of usurping each other's primacy of place as the chronicle unfolds itself. But although all its intricate threads are gathered into a final skein, I do not feel that 'Crumplin' is a book to read for its admirably-solved enigma, It is a book to read for its atmosphere of place, period and personality, and that unforgettable fecundity of human action which the historian's cunning sees as distilled from all three. A word should also be said for the grace of its narrative style, and for the entirely happy compromise that has solved its problems of dialogue.

H.P.E.

PAGEANT OF LIFE. A Human Drama. By Owen Francis Dudley. (Longmans; 6/-.)

Fr. Dudley's many readers will welcome his new novel. It is worthy to rank with his trilogy and Catholics and non-Catholics alike will find much in it both to interest and amuse them. The author presents us with an antithesis to 'the modern vogue of the vague and non-committal' and the lives of his three chief characters are unusually full of incident. Still, although the heroine is blinded by falling on some barbed wire and the hero crucified by 'red reptiles' near Archangel, we are glad to state that their friend and counsellor survives to become a masterful monk.

G.M.

TUDOR SUNSET. By Mrs. Wilfrid Ward. (Sheed & Ward; 7/6.)

This historical novel describes the Catholic life in England in the last years of Queen Elizabeth with a combination of deep sincerity of purpose and subtlety of thought which lend distinction to an absorbing book. The wide knowledge of the Catholic sources for this period is everywhere apparent and certain of the character sketches, notably those of Lady Arundel