

some excellent and practical remarks. 'No prayer can be heard unless it is actually incorporated into that Sacrifice (of Calvary).' 'Ordination is not to be used as an aid to doing work which can be adequately performed by others.' 'In all his activities and functions, the priest must beware of the selfishness which creeps in and is capable of spoiling the most efficient work. As soon as a priest begins to attract men to himself, or to suppose that he is doing his work simply in his own strength, instead of leading them on to God and acting as the divine instrument, he is in peril.'

C.P.

LE SERPENT D'AIRAIN, CINQ MYSTERES EN FORME DE RÉTABLE. Par René Schwob. (Edition L'Arbre, Montreal; \$1.50.)

This first volume contains three plays: 'La Nuit de Noël,' 'L'Adoration des Majes,' and 'Le Drame de la Passion.' A second volume will contain 'La Descente aux Enfers' and 'La Pentecôte.' The three plays in this first volume are beautiful. René Schwob is certainly a poet. He has captured the mediaeval spirit successfully, and has, by his originality, given his plays a vitality and charm that are his own. A real artist can always draw from the limitless depths of the Gospels some new light. In the present case a poet has seen and is able to make others see, if they are receptive, a fresh and lovely vision of the eternal story. It is interesting to note that 'La Nuit de Noël' was performed in a church, at Vence, on the Christmas Eve of 1940. An oasis of peace in the horrible desert of war.

H.S.S.

A BOOK OF SHIPS. By Charles Mitchell. (King Penguin; 1s.)

A little volume for keeps, this trim and tidily account of sail in the western world from the bark of Dionysus in a fifth century B.C. vase painting to *Cutty Sark*; of long ships and round ships; of the influence of the North Sea on the Mediterranean in design; of the change in tactics from ramming to broadside firing. There are sixteen coloured plates, including reproductions of Van der Velde, and eleven black-and-white illustrations.

T.G.

THE CATHOLIC DIRECTORY FOR 1942 (7s. 6d.) appears in its usual form in spite of the fact that this edition has had to be completely re-set as the type of the former edition was destroyed in an air raid. In addition to this, the difficulties from evacuation and general war conditions have been considerable, so that the Editor is to be congratulated on its comparatively few mistakes. THE CATHOLIC WHO'S WHO can only rise to a Supplement (2s. 6d.) bringing the 1941 edition up to date, but giving all essential changes and continuing quite clearly the utility of the former volume. THE CATHOLIC