

REVIEWS

DIRECTOIRE DES PRÊTRES CHARGÉS DE RELIGIEUSES. Edited by A. Plé, O.P. (Les Editions du Cerf; Blackfriars.)

Year by year priests and religious have met to discuss the problems which face religious and those who have the responsibility for religious life. The findings of these meetings have fortunately been made available to all by the publication of the papers that were read and the discussions that followed. This present volume deals very ably with the problems of confessors, chaplains and all who have the spiritual welfare of nuns in their charge. The idea that being a chaplain to a convent is a convenient way of disposing of retired clergy is completely exploded, as also the notion that appointing confessors to nuns is a matter of no importance. What has been said at their conference of 165 priests, all of whom are experienced men, should give grave matter for thought. These priests were not all religious; there were ten Vicars General among their number. They speak with authority and sincerity, having obviously met with complaints from religious who have been treated with anything but consideration. This was no mere fact-finding conference. The questions dealt with are also practical; such questions as the proper preparation of conferences to the sisters and punctuality in the carrying out of the duties of a chaplain, not to mention a little practical advice about not interfering with the internal government of a convent. The duties of a visitator are dealt with; there are definite limitations in the power that can be exercised by these various officials according to the particular status of the religious concerned. Not a few of these facts are unknown to many, but this book will amply supply any defect in these matters for those who take the trouble to read it, and there are not a few who would do well to digest its pages. While it is true that nuns can be very exacting and are not devoid of the failings of human nature, it is equally true that there are priests who do not seem to appreciate their needs, which are very real, nor their own duties, which are very serious. The words of the letter of Mgr Brot, Bishop of Marciana, who presided, are very much to the point. 'Je ne saurais trop louer la qualité des conférences. . . . Je suis persuadé que tous les prêtres, qui, à quel que titre que ce soit, sont chargés de Religieuses, trouveront dans ces magnifiques exposés un Directoire sûr pour l'accomplissement du ministère de choix qui leur a été confié.'

DOMINIC J. SIRE, O.P.

AN IDIOM BOOK OF NEW TESTAMENT GREEK. By the Rev. Professor C. F. D. Moule. (Cambridge University Press; 25s.)

This is a wholly delightful and entrancing book. There may be a