

from him to the plainsong settings we still hear in our churches. That chain was modified but not broken by the Lutheran Reformation and the main difference between Passions before and after the schism was the adoption of German. By degrees the influence of opera was felt and the recitatorial, dramatic Passion gave way to the oratorio type which introduced the operatic forms of aria and duet as well as the congregational chorale, expanding the choruses. Neumeister's invention of the German church cantata in the time of Bach's youth made this mingling of recitative, lyrical poems and hymns familiar. With Bach the old dramatic pattern is still present but by degrees it was eliminated and we are left with a succession of reflections and meditations with no narration, as in Graun's once well-known *Tod Jesu*. Mr Smallman writes attractively but without condescending to the untutored, and he has been allowed enough musical examples to make his points clear. This is an excellent little book for those whom C. S. Terry's larger volumes may intimidate.

CUTHBERT GIRDLESTONE

SACRAMENTS AND WORSHIP. Edited by the Rev. Paul E. Palmer, S.J. (Sources of Christian Theology, volume 1). (Longmans; 15s.)

This is a selection of documents intended to illustrate the liturgies and doctrines of Baptism, Confirmation and the Eucharist throughout the last eighteen hundred years. The methods chosen are those of Father Denzinger. It is possible to regret that the extracts are so short, the annotation so slight and the dating and ascriptions at times provocatively positive. Still it remains a remarkable achievement to have compressed so much into so small a space and the documents are moderately representative and clearly translated. It is a pity that Father Palmer could not allow himself more space for his patristic excerpts, and it is only fair to add that most non-Catholic scholars will consider his selection to be tendentious.

GERVASE MATHEW, O.P.

PROBLEMS IN CANON LAW. By William Conway, D.D., D.C.L. (Browne & Nolan Ltd; 30s.)

PROBLEMS IN THEOLOGY, VOL. I: THE SACRAMENTS. By John Canon McCarthy, D.D. (Browne & Nolan Ltd; 40s.)

These two books are a selection from answers to questions given in the *Irish Ecclesiastical Record* over a period of fifteen years.

It may seem curious, if not useless, to republish answers to past problems, and if these volumes are looked on as handy books of reference in which to turn up the solution of a problem that has just arisen they would serve little use, for the present problem will seldom

if ever be the same problem as that which arose previously, however similar at first sight; nor consequently will its solution be the same.

Nevertheless we all know (or should do!) the exasperating feeling when faced with an actual problem, that if we could lay our hands on the right number of the *Irish Ecclesiastical Record* that something valuable has been said on the subject. Usually, however, the effort of searching through the past numbers is burdensome, and it is only too easy to be sure that it is in the missing number borrowed and not returned. These systematic presentations do enable us to find what we are looking for—namely, the application to a particular problem in a certain matter of the principles whose application will help us to solve our present problem, and for this reason these books are valuable for they do contain admirable presentations of the principles governing a multitude of points, and examples of their application to particular cases.

The titles of the two volumes, 'Problems in Theology . . . in Canon Law', imply a distinction of subject matter between Theology and Canon Law which is hardly present, particularly in the first volume which, although it contains some purely theological problems and many mixed ones, does deal with some that appear to be purely canonical as opposed to theology. Why, by the way, should faculties for a voyage by sea be a Theological problem, while those for a voyage by air be Canonical? It would seem that a 'problem' is Theological or Canonical according as to whether Dr Conway or Canon McCarthy undertook the original answer in the *Irish Ecclesiastical Record*. We look forward to the two companion volumes that are promised.

R.C.

FLAME IN THE MIND. By G. L. Phillips. (Longmans; 5s. 6d., or paper, 3s. 6d.)

This book by an Anglican has the laudable aim of putting the layman in touch with the writings of the early Fathers. Being no more than a first introduction, with useful hints for further reading, it is advisedly slight. But it is marred by an attempt, which obtrudes excessively, to destroy the important distinction between the inspired writings of the New Testament and the lesser writings, however great, of the Fathers. It is written in an engaging style, with many interesting sidelights on the lives and writings of Ignatius of Antioch, Justin Martyr, Clement of Rome, Tertullian, Clement of Alexandria and Origen, calculated to give the beginner a taste for more. But the whole bears so many traces of the aggressive protestant outlook of its author that Catholics must look elsewhere for a guide to the Fathers.