

REVIEWS

CATHOLIC LONDON. By Douglas Newton. (Robert Hale; 21s.)

I have shared, metaphorically speaking, so many Distributist pl forms with the author of *Catholic London* that he will forgive me wondering how to begin a phrase in my head ending: 'he was a v pious antiquarian . . . ' before I had even opened the book! Moreover when I had done so and, turning to some paragraphs about 'The Sh (the inn which still occupies its old site in Little Turnstile), read h Bishop Challoner had once sat there preaching to the company, 'e having a pot of beer on the table before him so that, should the b break in, it would find only a normal gathering of customers', I l more assured that a restrained parody of G.K.C.'s *Logical Vegetari would be proper to my review. But, no! Preaching and piety are the respect for antiquity and the love of London not less so; but mu much more: here is a book with even the necessary dry-as-d information converted into the rich tapestry of the Faith.*

I have read this amazing work, no longer to be a little bit super to the annual walk, organized by the Guild of Ransom, from t Tower of Tyburn, nor to wonder that Cheapside should have be once known as 'the street of Saints'—had it not seen 'penitents, ba foot, sombrely clad and bearing great wax candles, pacing behi church and legal officers in public expiation of faults'; and witness also 'many a rogue whipped at the cart-tail, and Blessed Edmund Cas pion and other martyrs bound on that dolorous and glorious way th ended at Tyburn'? Then, for two pages, Douglas Newton enriches h work with nostalgic pictures of what the hands of 'furious and zeale people' could do in attacking the 'idolatrous cross of Chepe'.

There is enough history and holiness in the two chapters alone n Newgate and the Tower of London to put the reader for ever in d to the author, and to make us amazed at our heritage and at the hea price so cheerfully paid for the liberties we so thoughtlessly enjoy. N more fitting and faithful work could commemorate the Centenary t the Restoration of the Catholic Hierarchy in England, nor one mo suitable to the needs of Catholic visitors to London for the less excitin centenary this year. The Festival of Britain will be enjoyed more ful under Douglas Newton's tutorship, since he has made the very ston cry out their praise; and may there be many hosts to take advantage t this most Christian guide-book before venturing to show visitors o London's bombed and devious ways.

P.S. As I end this note Douglas Newton's death is announced; may he rest in peace not unmindful of our debt. H. D. C. PEPLER