

## *Book Reviews*

**DE BONIS ECCLESIAE TEMPORALIBUS.** By Marius Pistocchi.  
(Turin; Marietti. Pp. viii, 489. Lire 15.)

In this book will be found an accurate and learned commentary on the canons of the Codex which legislate for the acquisition, retention, and administration of ecclesiastical property by the Catholic Church and the Holy See. One is conscious nowadays of a notable tendency to emphasise the Church's spiritual mission, often with a view to eliminating her native right to have and to hold worldly possessions. Hence arise despoliations and unjustifiable levies on the part of civil authorities. The present work should serve as an antidote, since it clearly shows that the very constitution of the Church as a perfect and visible society demands she should have a free and independent dominion over temporal goods, which are indispensable for the attainment of the supernatural end for which she was founded.

Church property can only serve its purpose when it is freed from legal entanglements and administered in accordance with the Canon and the Civil Law. A knowledge of these laws may be gathered here. In all cases the canons, some of which may be obscure in themselves, are accompanied by very ample expositions showing their relation to the Roman law and modern civil law.

The style is a little diffuse, and often parenthetical, which does not make reading easy. Greater clarity would have been given by dividing up the matter with indications of the contents of each section, and with differentiations of type. The book would also be much more valuable for the purpose of reference if it had an alphabetical index.

A.F.

**GREGOIRE AND THE FRENCH REVOLUTION.** By Lord Ashbourne.  
(Sands; 6/.)

Lord Ashbourne's monograph on the political influence of the Abbé Grégoire is of considerable interest to any student of the French Revolution. It is admirably documented and its value is much increased by the author's freedom from bias. One example will be sufficient to illustrate his method; he contrasts Grégoire and Bishop Gobel by noting their different rôles on the 17th Brumaire and he does this by printing their speeches. Still it is unfortunate that the study is so limited in its scope. There is no attempt to treat adequately of Grégoire's lasting influence as a member of the Committee of Public Instruction, the work by which he should be chiefly remembered, or to esti-