

action which is morally indifferent. But we are told here that this is not more than a very probable 'opinion'. The practical result of this is that we are free to hold the opposite, and without knowing why. Further, it is stated as an 'opinion' that a parish priest can administer confirmation in danger of death to visitors (*vagi* and *peregrini*) within his territory. A careful reading of the decree *Spiritus Sancti* clearly shows that this is the right and duty of every parish priest with regard to all without distinction within his parish. In connection with marriages in the presence of witnesses without the assistance of a priest the phrase *in fraudem legis* has now been dropped. It follows that marriages at one time falling under this ban can now no longer be described as valid but *illicit*.

A detachable chart with notes of the latest penalties *latae sententiae* will have its uses. In an appendix there is a selection of formularies, followed by a catalogue of authors, from which are omitted such names as Chelodi, Cerato, Davis, Vlaming.

AMBROSE FARRELL, O.P.

GRUNDRISS DER LITURGIK. By L. Eisenhofer, herausgegeben von Joseph Lechner. (Herders Theologische Grundrisse.)

This new edition of Eisenhofer's manual will be useful for all who have to busy themselves one way or another with liturgical questions: while being a manual for the student, it will provide a source of information for the professor and the preacher. It will make readily available information on all sorts of subjects connected with liturgy (cf. for example the note on the singing of the Passion on Palm Sunday, p.127, or on the Forty Hours, p.261). There is a good commentary on the ceremonies, and the author has taken account of recent doctrinal treatises, for instance, Dom Casel's doctrine of the 'Mysterium' (p. 169) and the fine conclusions of Poschmann which seem to have inspired the short introduction to the chapter on penance (pp. 263-264). Moreover by its wealth of information and the admirable bibliographies (German books seem to form the lion's share, but after all it is a book designed primarily for a German public) this book appears to us to be of the first importance. It will be easy to take its pointers as a starting place whenever one feels tempted to go more deeply into a subject or to check one of its affirmations at its source.

H. DE R.

SAINT THOMAS AQUINAS. A biographical study by Father Angelo Walz, O.P. Translated from the Italian by Father Sebastian Bullough, O.P. (The Newman Press, Westminster, Maryland; \$3.50.)

Although Father Walz is content to label his work 'a biographical study' it is in reality something of far greater importance, and it is not praising his work too highly to say that it is probably the best