

book as of the age in which it was written. The scholastic training and interests of the author did not deprive him of the vigorous directness of a Spanish mystic. We look forward to further translations of this attractive writer by Professor Peers. CONRAD PEPLER, O.P.

LE BAPTEME, *Fêtes et Saisons*, Special Number (14). (Centre de Pastorale Liturgique, Blackfriars, Oxford; 1s. 6d.)

Anyone who has seen the ordinary issues of *Fêtes et Saisons* will know how attractive and excellent they are. Now the same Centre is publishing a special series on Baptism, the Mass, Marriage, etc., as instruments of the liturgical apostolate.

This, the first number, on Baptism, gives in simple language an explanation of the meaning and the ceremonies of Baptism. Every phase of the baptismal service is illustrated by first-rate photographs which are both accurate and charming.

The compilers say that a former issue on the Mass (now being revised) has been used by many priests in instructing their people. There is no doubt at all that we must nowadays instruct through pictures and use 'active methods' even with adults. We hope that the Church in this country will wake up to the urgency of the matter and begin producing an English *Fêtes et Saisons* and, better still, a series of Catholic documentaries such as are suggested by this French paper that lies before us. Perhaps, even, the C.P.L. could produce a series of silent films which could be used anywhere in the Church by enterprising priests and teachers. J.D.C.

A RETREAT FOR PRIESTS. By Ronald Knox. (Sheed & Ward; 10s. 6d.)

These eighteen conferences for priests, with passages explicitly devoted to the needs of religious, will be eagerly bought by those who have heard them from the author's lips. He remarks with approbation on the transitory nature of any new vision that may be gained in retreat; but if we are not meant to live permanently on the mount of transfiguration, we can still go on pilgrimage to it from time to time, and be helped in doing so by a guide who has helped us before.

But we hope that a far wider public will be taught to appreciate the Priesthood as Mgr Knox appreciates it, and helped by his compassion for the earthen vessels in which that treasure is carried. He knows the stresses to which they are subjected, well discerns their weaknesses of structure, and has the appropriate word of comfort, strength and exhortation for all.

The newcomers to this guidance will find the vision fresh, yet not so new as to be unintelligible. It is rather a new look at very old and familiar possessions, some of which we have got into the habit of not noticing, others of which we have cared for too much. Stories of the Bible, experiences of our youth, thoughts we formed in the seminaries, our common and our private histories, our natural and supernatural inheritances are reviewed and revalued for us. Above all we learn better—and what layman or cleric cannot do with the lesson?—what manner of calling it is to be a Priest. IVO THOMAS, O.P.