

A WANDERER IN THE WEST COUNTRY. By E. W. Martin. (Phoenix House; 15s.)

The publishers describe this book as a 'human supplement in which people and atmosphere, the *sense* of a place, are the important things'. This is an accurate classification. E. W. Martin has aimed throughout at a revelation of the *genius loci* and in many instances has achieved it. The remoteness of West Cornwall both in space and culture is particularly well conveyed. Local worthies receive due attention, especially those whose fame is regional rather than national. Trengrouse of Kelston, the inventor of the life-saving rocket, receives the recognition he was denied during his lifetime. There are amusing anecdotes of Wesley and a lament for the fall of Capern, who might have been the Barnes of Devonshire.

The book is inevitably scrappy. To provide an adequate 'human supplement' to the guide-books of Somerset, Devon and Cornwall in 212 pages is an impossible task. All honour to E. W. Martin for attempting it. May we hope he will give us a similar work on one of the three counties—Devon, which he knows and loves so well.

A final word in praise of the young artists, Heather Copley and Christopher Chamberlain, whose drawings have atmosphere and character and add to the delights of the book.

R. F. TREVETT

NOTICES

A CATHOLIC DICTIONARY (Routledge and Kegan Paul; 35s.) now appears in its fifteenth edition, revised with additions by the late Mgr Hallett, former Rector of St John's Seminary, Womersley. Since it first appeared in 1883, the Addis-Arnold *Dictionary* has naturally undergone many changes, but it still retains its distinctive character. Its biblical and patristic references are especially useful, and even though the original work reflected (and the present edition to some extent still does reflect) the apologetic preoccupations of its time, it is up-to-date in statistical and general information. 840 double columned pages, printed on excellent paper, represent admirable value for thirty-five shillings in these days, and the Dictionary should meet a widespread need for a convenient compendium of information about the teaching and organisation of the Church.

SIMPLE ROSARY MEDITATIONS by a Dominican Tertiary (Burns Oates; 8s. 6d.) is a practical aid to the fruitful use of the most popular of

Catholic devotions. The meditations are ingeniously arranged to correspond to the three theological virtues, to the Church's seasons and, in conclusion, to prayer for a good death. As the Dominican Provincial remarks in the preface, 'through the vivid recollection of the amazing truths of the Incarnation we are raising our minds and hearts to God; we are coming to the Father through the Son made Man', and this book of simple meditations should do much to deepen understanding of the Rosary as a prayer which declares and applies the radical truths of Faith.

PRAYING WHILE YOU WORK, described as 'Devotions for the use of Martha rather than Mary' (Burns Oates; 7s. 6d.), reveals once more Dom Hubert van Zeller's special gift of making the spiritual life attractive to modern people. Not everyone will, in fact, want to recite a 'prayer before receiving a difficult guest', but few will fail to be captivated by the mood of this attractive book.

BISHOP HEDLEY'S RETREAT (Burns Oates; 16s.) has long since established itself as an English spiritual classic, and the sixteenth edition of this solid monument of Benedictine piety will be widely welcomed, not only by priests and religious but by anyone who looks for wise and temperate guidance in the spiritual life.

SALISBURY (Batsford; 8s. 6d.), is a volume in the 'British Cities' series, with fifty-two illustrations to give point to R. L. P. Jovitt's informed and lively text.

CHRIST CONSCIOUSNESS (Blackfriars Publications; 2s.), the translation of the Dominican Père Gardeil's *Sens du Christ*, is now available in a second edition. This strong and christocentric book reflects modern thomist spirituality at its best.

CHAUCER'S CANTERBURY TALES, in Nevill Coghill's translation, now appear in the Penguin Classics. Five hundred pages for three shillings and sixpence must represent the maximum possible publishing value nowadays, and Mr Coghill's dexterous modernisation is likely to introduce Chaucer to thousands of readers who would be daunted (perhaps unnecessarily) by the original. In a preface Mr Coghill justifies his methods and it would be pedantic, granted the general principles he states, to complain of his bold and lively application of them. His substantial fidelity to Chaucer in metre and meaning is a remarkable achievement, and this new Penguin Classic is altogether delightful.