

Reviews

THE CHURCH AND ART : Being the 10th Report of the Central Council for the Care of Churches ; Publications Board, Church House, Dean's Yard, Westminster ; price 3s 6d.

This Report maintains the high standard set by its predecessors ; and no one interested in the proper care, maintenance, and restoration or renovation of church buildings can afford to miss these valuable annual Reports. They are prepared by the most expert opinion in England, under Dr Francis C. Eeles, their learned and experienced secretary, himself a Scotsman who was first attracted to the study of ecclesiology by the late Professor James Cooper. Of the several brilliant articles in this number, probably the most important is that by Mr W. H. R. Blacking, F.R.I.B.A., on " The Furniture and Arrangement of an English Church." If this article were carefully noted and read by parish ministers, we should be spared from making many of the mistakes in renovation which have become too general in Scotland : mean and narrow passages, insufficient free space owing to gross (and usually unnecessary) over-pewing, badly designed and ill-proportioned Communion Tables, sanctuary steps both too narrow and too high, ill-spaced pews or chairs, the mis-placing of singers and organs, and a variety of other matters which receive too little attention. Much " restoration " in Scotland is still executed according to Edwardian standards. This will no doubt continue until both ministers and architects examine more carefully into ecclesiology.

WILLIAM D. MAXWELL.

THE AGE OF ADAM. By James Lees-Milne. London, Batsford, 21s.

GREATER ENGLISH CHURCH SCREENS. By Aymer Vallance. London, Batsford. 30s.

STUART AND GEORGIAN CHURCHES. By Marcus Whiffen. London, Batsford. 18s.

The House of Batsford should be well known to all who are interested in the beautiful. Their books on landscape,

architecture and kindred subjects are unrivalled, and their three latest publications will, if possible, enhance the excellent reputation of the firm.

Few names are better known in the history of 18th century architecture than that of Robert Adam, a native of Fife, whose father, also an architect of some standing, was Laird of Blairadam in Cleish. Adam was chiefly concerned with domestic architecture, though he designed a church for Lasswade as well as that at Mistley, in Essex. His brother, John, it may be said, designed one for Cleish. This volume is a perfect mine of information about Robert Adam and a number of his contemporaries and rivals such as Wyatt, Taylor and Holland. There are over 200 illustrations showing many aspects of Adam's work, and this book is in every way an authoritative contribution to the history of British architecture and design.

Mr Vallance's book might be called a supplement to his former volume *English Church Screens*. Here the writer deals with the great roods, screenwork and rood lofts in England and Wales. In pre-Reformation days the Great Rood or Crucifix was a prominent object in almost every church and Mr Vallance has collected a great amount of information about its forms and character. A large portion of the volume is devoted to detailed descriptions of the many screens still left in the cathedrals and large churches of our southern neighbour. He shows that, despite many losses of great importance (some of them through the zeal and ignorance of so called "restorers"), much of value is still preserved. There are illustrations of practically every old screen which has been left to our day. This is a volume to purchase, keep and study. One regrets to add that Mr Vallance died before his book was through the press.

The volume relating to the Stuart and Georgian churches deals with those erected between 1603 and 1837. Mr Giffen has given us a pioneer work of great value, which we can cordially recommend. There has been a tendency on the part of many writers to ignore or disparage such buildings. The writer shows the foolishness of such courses and lets us know that the churches are in many cases well worth attention. He deals with the various "periods", commencing with "Early Stuart and Commonwealth" and ending with "The Regency and After". As is usual in Batsford books the illustrations are excellent and leave us in no doubt as to the worth of what has been preserved. Many interesting points could be noted; let one suffice.

A full page illustration is given of the Church of St Chad, Shrewsbury, a church with a circular nave. The architect was George Steuart, whose name suggests a Scots origin, and the person who superintended its building, John Simpson, was the engineer of the Caledonian Canal, a fact which according to Mr Giffen "explains the fine quality of the masonry and of the general workmanship throughout". It is to be hoped that we may have something of the same kind about Scottish churches; for, despite popular opinion to the contrary, there is still something of value to be recorded here.

W. McMILLAN.

THE BOOK OF PSALMS IN LATIN AND ENGLISH
AND THE CANTICLES USED IN THE DIVINE
OFFICE. Translated by Monsignor Ronald Knox.
London: Burns, Oates & Washbourne, Ltd.

This work is interesting in more ways than one. In the first place it gives us a new Latin translation of the Psalms from a text "based upon the oldest surviving manuscripts", though whether these MSS. are Latin, Greek, or Hebrew is not stated. There is evidence that the last-mentioned has been used, though probably not exclusively.

Monsignor Knox has already given us a new translation of the New Testament, and we have no doubt that this new version of the Psalms (as translated into English by him) will also be well received. It may, however, be fairly questioned whether he has been as successful here as he was in his earlier work. At times he appears to be paraphrasing the original rather than translating it; but before criticising him for this it may be well to remember the words of De Quincey about the popular delusion that every word and idea in ancient documents must have a direct and interchangeable equivalent in other languages. Monsignor Knox's work is virile and there is much to be learned from it, especially from the notes which are attached to the English renderings. We cordially commend the volume.

W. McMILLAN.

MEMORIAL SERVICES. By the Rev. A. T. Welford.
S. P. C. K. London ; 2s 9d.

This excellent booklet (containing sixty pages) makes available, in pocket-size, selected material for the conduct of memorial services. It has as its nucleus the elements of such services held in recent years in the chapel of St John's College, Cambridge. Suitable sentences of Holy Scripture, selections from the Psalms, and appropriate passages from the New Testament are conveniently arranged. The prayers, from a wide variety of sources, both ancient and modern, are singularly well chosen, the sources being noted in an appendix. They are arranged, under suitable headings, according to the sequence of the service. This compact, well-printed volume should prove of great service to ministers. Its use would serve to guard against undue prolixity, and will help to match the word of prayer with the need of the hour.

DAVID A. HODGES.