

in Ireland for the past six years the book has a delightful Hibernian flavour. We are given some interesting descriptions of Ireland and of its mountains (mountain-climbing seems to be the hobby or avocation of Miss Pochin Mould) and of Irish places of pilgrimage, many of them little known outside the Emerald Isle. But all of this is rather an 'extra', a dividend. The main portion of the book deals with the author's attitudes and convictions, as a convert, to and concerning some of the essentials of the Catholic Church: its teaching authority, its sacraments, its liturgy, devotion to the Blessed Virgin, the Rosary, etc. Although a light, personalized touch is used, yet here is solid doctrine and evidence of a trained, scientific mind and a prayerful heart at work to produce satisfying reasons for the Faith that she now profitably practises. Recommended both to born Catholics and new converts, as well as to the sincere non-Catholic enquirer. PETER CURRAN, O.P.

A SHORT GUIDE TO ROME. By John Beighton. (Nicholas Kaye; 12s. 6d.)

This is one of the better brief guides to Rome that has appeared in recent years. The author has wisely avoided the impossible task of giving, within the compass of a small book, a complete description of infinitely varied Rome; he has left to the specialists the giving of learned disquisitions on Roman archaeology and architecture; he has even omitted the usual tourists' list of hotels, shops and restaurants. What Mr Beighton gives us is a clear picture of the essential topography of Rome and brief, discriminating descriptions of places to be visited: the principal monuments of the city, both ecclesiastical and secular. If one is the kind of tourist who wishes to have every foot of the way charted for him, this is not a book for him to buy. But if he prefers to be orientated intelligently and then left to discover the riches of Rome for himself (with the aid of some clearly-drawn, uncluttered sketch-maps), this Short Guide to the Eternal City should serve him well.

PETER CURRAN, O.P.

CAMBRIDGE AND ITS COLLEGES. By Edmund Vale. (Methuen: The Little Guides; 15s.)

The first edition of this useful and pocketable guide was prepared by Professor Hamilton Thompson and, having been six times reprinted it now appears in a completely rewritten form. Chapters on the old town and the growth of the university are followed by detailed accounts of all the colleges. The text is accurate and informative, and is illustrated by a large number of photographs. It is as well, perhaps, that Mr Vale has not felt obliged to include any examples of recent architecture, such as the deplorable new buildings at Emmanuel College. Of Churchill College, it seems we can hope for better things.

I.E.