

REVIEWS

humbly submitted. The Bishop of Namur thereupon invited her to establish her mother house in his cathedral city, and this has remained the headquarters to this day. In later years the Bishop of Amiens bitterly lamented his harsh treatment of the saint, and his blindness in trusting his imprudent adviser.

To this interesting biography the author has added valuable chapters on the increase of the Order and its spread into the various principal countries of the world.

WALTER GUMBLEY, O.P.

HIS HOLINESS POPE PIUS XI. By Monsignor R. Fontenelle. (Methuen; ios. 6d.)

This is a pleasing study of the Holy Father written in an enthusiastic style by one who has been in close contact with the Pope, and who is obviously inspired by deep and filial love for the subject of his biography. It is a study of Pius XI not as a private individual, but as the Father of all Christendom. The author takes his readers through all the historic events of the Holy Father's epoch-making reign, and in his pages they live again through the Holy Years, and see re-enacted the canonizations of St. Teresa of Lisieux, the Curé d'Ars, St. Thomas More and the other saints raised to the altars during this pontificate. The descriptions, tinged with emotion, are dazzling; and those who have never enjoyed the privilege of visiting Rome will learn something of its atmosphere from reading them. Indeed such persons may be a little overwhelmed by the richness of the pageantry set out in these pages, for the cloaks of the cardinals, the gorgeous uniforms of the Papal Guards, the myriad lights of St. Peter's, the golden copes and "the call of bells, the sound of hymns and the swinging of censers" trail their clouds of glory through almost every chapter of the book.

Yet underlying all this splendour is Pope Pius XI, the indefatigable worker, watching with anxious care over a torn and troubled world. What he has done as Father of the Church ought to be known and admired by all his children, for he is the Vicar of Christ, and his works are, for Catholics, works of Christ within the world. Catholic Action; a tremendous missionary impetus; really constructive work towards reunion with the East: trenchant, powerful social teaching; the Lateran Treaty; the combatting of Communism and neo-paganism, and many other works too numerous to mention, have originated or developed with our present Pope; and with all of them Monsignor Fontenelle deals in his biography.

It is a book that all should read, that all may know how much they are indebted to their common Father.

JORDAN PEARSON, O.P.