

Steps. But they include, too, such unfamiliar treasures as details of paintings from private collections, medallions, mosaics, tapestries, inscriptions, maps, nineteenth-century water-colours and press photographs of Neville Chamberlain and Mussolini. In all, there are 739 pictures, with thirty-two full-page plates in colour (these including a Virgil from a sixth century manuscript, the Piazza del Popolo in 1863 and the coronation of Otto III from an 'exultet' scroll in the Vatican Library). Never before can such a marvellous anthology of the total wealth of Rome have been made available in a single book, and what emerges is the permanence of *Roma sacra*, surviving beneath the ruins, rising afresh in every generation. The last picture in the book is a colour photograph of John XXIII bestowing the red hat on new cardinals in St Peter's. Here all the pageantry and splendour of the past are sumptuously displayed, but it is a present reality that is recorded.

This must surely be the 'special' gift that generous givers sometimes look for. Admirably produced and excellently edited it is a definitive monument to Rome.

PEREGRINE WALKER

THE ENGLISH HOSPICE IN ROME; C.T.S.; 10s.

In this volume of the *Venerabile* we have a group of experts uncovering the story of the old English Hospice in Rome from its establishment about 1360 until its metamorphosis into the English College in 1579. Set up as a shelter for English pilgrims it depended in its early years on the generosity of the wealthier of its visitors, and the considerable help afforded by the English merchants and other residents of our nation, but towards the end of the fourteenth century more stable assistance was provided by a collection made at home and known as the *firma Angliae*. This was paid with commendable regularity twice a year, about Lady Day and Michaelmas.

In the long list of the pilgrims who shared its hospitality none were more interesting than Margery Kempe, the holy woman of Kings Lynn, who stayed within its walls sometime about 1415 and left an admirable account of her sojourn in her recently discovered autobiography. But the most sinister visitor was without any doubt Thomas Cromwell, joint architect with Henry VIII of the English schism which after 1538 dried up the flow of pilgrims, so that its use as hospice came to an end and led to its change into the English College from which so many martyrs sprang. Cromwell's visit was in 1514 the year Cardinal Bainbridge, archbishop of York, ambassador to Leo X, and custodian of the Hospice, was poisoned by an Italian chaplain whom he had severely beaten. His tomb is still preserved with its recumbent effigy. Bishop Lewis Owen, the protagonist of the College scheme, whose memory has suffered so long from the calumnies of his many opponents, here finds a staunch defender, Fr Godfrey Anstruther, whose excellent essay goes far to rehabilitate his reputation.

WALTER GUMBLEY, O.P.