

THE CATHOLICS IN CAROLINE ENGLAND, by M. J. Havran; Stanford University Press and Oxford University Press; 30s.

The publisher's note on the jacket of this book informs us that 'many of the manuscript sources and public records employed by the author have hitherto been almost completely ignored by historians'. It is not clear whether this is a charge of incompetence or dishonesty, but in either case it is a serious charge to make without giving a scrap of evidence. Historians will naturally turn first to the author's bibliography to find out the sources that they have ignored. They will not be unduly chastened. It is true that few of them have journeyed to Reading to consult the Trumbull MSS., but they have long known the transcripts of them in the Public Record Office. Otherwise the references are to sources with which all serious historians have been long familiar. Indeed they will be more surprised by the omissions. There is no reference in the book to such relevant sources as the Recusant Rolls, Subsidies or Visitation Books. Most of the information is from printed sources. A glance at Professor Havran's own bibliography is sufficient to refute his claim that 'the Caroline Catholics have been paid little attention' (p. vii).

It is a pity that this note of superiority has crept into the book, for here is a very competent piece of research with a refreshingly novel approach. The political background is adequately presented, and the contrast between the Queen's chapel in London and the secret masses in garrets in remote country houses is well portrayed. But surely it will not be new to many of us. Estimates are attempted of the number and distribution of priests and the size of congregations. There is a chapter on informers and a carefully written account of how the penal laws worked. All this is worthy of praise, but Professor Havran has failed to convince one reader that this book will cause historians to modify their opinions. Like so many works from America this one shows little regard for accuracy in matters not essential to the thesis. Thus we are told that during the first decade of her reign Elizabeth 'endeavoured to induce Catholic conformity through light fines and occasional imprisonments' (p. 2). This is an odd way of summarizing the deposition and life-long restraint of the entire hierarchy and the expulsion of hundreds of professors and incumbents. It is misleading to speak of the 'trials of Edmund Campion and Robert Persons' (p. 76), seeing the latter was never captured. Nor did Clement VIII consecrate George Blackwell archpriest (p. 84). It was not Dr Richard Smith but his predecessor who established the English Chapter (p. 85).

GODFREY ANSTRUTHER, O.P.

EUGENIUS IV: POPE OF CHRISTIAN UNION, by Joseph Gill, S.J.; The Popes through History, Volume I; Burns and Oates; 30s.

It is no doubt fitting that the biography of the pope who fashioned the fragile union between Eastern and Western Christians should appear at a time when