

COMMENTARY

THE contributions to the present number of BLACKFRIARS find a unity in the theme of the Church and the Arts. Three of the articles (those by Fathers Pepler, Velarde and Purdy) were originally given as papers at Spode House, Hawkesyard Priory, at various Music or Visual Arts Weeks which by now have proved their worth as established events in the Spode year. At these gatherings practitioners and professional critics of the arts meet to discuss their common heritage as Catholic artists and the problems and special difficulties to which that gives rise, and thus help to create among the Catholic clergy and laity of this country alike that more mature, if at first naturally less certain, attitude to the arts which is slowly succeeding to the hardy indifference of the last half of the nineteenth century and the smug complacency in a remote medieval achievement which, generally speaking, characterized the first half of this.

At first it had been hoped to publish a wide selection from the papers given at this year's Weeks, but the majority proved too technical in theme—and also in method of presentation—for inclusion in these pages. We are grateful, however, to the writers for the three more general papers now printed.



The dislocation in the publishing world following the printing strike in the summer means that the present number, too, is late in appearing. We apologize for this, but at the same time take the opportunity of warning our readers that the remaining numbers for the present year are all likely to appear nearer the middle than the beginning of the month. But with January 1960 BLACKFRIARS hopes to be once more back on an even keel.