

uses so skilfully in this one instance to all the 'myth and ritual' material which he has devoted his career to collecting, he would indeed achieve a magnificent piece of bridge-building. A book, not just a collection of essays, with some such title as 'Myth, Ritual and Revelation', would be a worthy fruit of a green old age, and a fitting crown for a life of such distinguished scholarship.

EDMUND HILL, O.P.

THE DIRECTION OF NUNS. (Blackfriars; 16s. 6d.)

This book is the seventh of a series. It consists of a translation of the conferences given at Versailles in 1953 during a national congress of religious women and priests who exercise their ministry among them. It begins with an inspiring talk by Mgr Garrone, now Archbishop of Toulouse, on the role of nuns in the modern world. There follows an historical sketch by Father Duval, O.P., which is both suggestive and useful, especially where the author shows how contemporary ideas on the place of women have influenced the form which religious life took at a given period. The theological essays by Fathers Plé and Carpentier will repay careful reading. They seek to make clear the connection between the religious state and that which every Christian has adopted by his baptism. 'The religious life is an act of public worship which results in a state of dedication, a visible and complete response to the implications of baptism and the Eucharistic sacrifice', we read. Or again: 'religious profession represents the most complete form of the priesthood of the faithful'. It is good to see the fraternal love of a religious community related to St John's saying that 'Christ died to gather together in one the children of God that were dispersed' or to find it said that a religious is an impatient Christian, eager, in the words of the Didache or the Apocalypse, that Christ come and the world pass away, so that fraternal love may be in truth a foretaste of heaven.

Among the other essays one would like to single out that on preaching, with its emphasis on doctrinal instruction, and that on the canonical visitation which is largely a digest of St Teresa's own wise words on the subject. There are also papers on the roles of chaplain, confessor and ecclesiastical superior, and a concluding chapter on the present policy of the Holy See. Altogether this is a most useful and rewarding book to have.

RICHARD BLUNDELL, S.J.