

from dissent from them.' But can the moral character of the Leader of a Catholic country be regarded as a purely political question as distinct from a moral one? If he is alleged to have failed in prudence, justice, fortitude or temperance, yes, perhaps? But in the matter under consideration few Catholics in a calm moment could think so. There was little calm to be found amid the agonies of Ireland in 1890-91. Nothing, however, could be more balanced or tranquil, or in all the main ways more satisfying than Dr Lyons' treatment of this ever-fascinating phase of Irish and Anglo-Irish history, this endlessly pathetic drama of licit and illicit devotion.

PAKENHAM

PRUDENCE: The First Cardinal Virtue. By Josef Pieper. (Faber and Faber; 12s. 6d.)

Of all the virtues, after charity, prudence has most come down in the world, so that now it signifies a timorous and small-minded concern for safety. Since the German moral philosophers are largely responsible for the lofty scorn of *klugheit*, it is well that a fellow-countryman should restore to the place of primacy it held for St Thomas Aquinas. He never thought it was more important to be nice than to be real. For as what is precedes what is true, so what is true precedes what is good. If we are not right we cannot be righteous—not the doctrine of our preceptors who tell us that all we can do is to mean well and act with love in our hearts, forgetting that the devil we don't know is worse than the devil we know, the first being the error in our vices, the second the faults we are aware of committing. Prudence is truth as put into human practice. Dr Pieper's short essay gracefully conceals its technical equipment, and communicates a warmth and light of feeling and reason to the text: 'If thine eye be single the whole of thy body shall be lit up'.

T.G.

### NOTICES

IN THE STEPS OF JESUS (Constable, 45s.) is a volume of photographs by F. Duran, with an accompanying text and archaeological notes by Canon Lecote of Lille, which traces the Palestine our Lord knew. It is a handsome book, in which the quality of the sensitive photographs is matched by an informed commentary which links the Holy Land of history to the sites the tourist sees today.

THE IDEA OF CATHOLICISM (Burns and Oates, 50s.) claims to provide 'the answer to anybody seeking a straightforward presentation of the belief of Catholics in theory and in action'. Its two American editors have drawn their net wide to include Newman and Karl Adam, Fathers Congar and Vann, and the arrangement of the book certainly covers a large field. But it is difficult to envisage the readers for whom it is intended. Those able to appreciate a fairly stiff extract from Father D'Arcy on the sacrifice of the Mass are scarcely likely to be content with the bits and pieces that inevitably make up an anthology of this sort, however well-intentioned.