

language of Aelfric, Rolle and even Hilton requires translation almost as much as the Latin which still enshrines the work of the great majority of English spiritual writers from the days of St Bede the Venerable. Perhaps someone someday may find leisure to put some of those forgotten treasures into English, and money to put them into print.

WALTER GUMBLEY, O.P.

THE LEGENDS OF THE SAINTS, by H. Delehaye; Chapman, 30s.

The first edition of *Les légendes hagiographiques* appeared in 1905. It was then considered in some quarters offensive to pious ears. It is the measure of its success that what was then suspect as the work of a revolutionary or a modernist is now accepted as a standard work of Catholic scholarship. Modern writers go further than Delehaye in repudiating the many worthless stories that still find a place in the Breviary. The recent suppression of the feast of St Philomena shows that this critical spirit is not obnoxious to the highest authorities. Hence this book after nearly sixty years has lost much of its importance and appeal. The author's original preface to the first edition now appears to be stating, not a startling 'new look' but a tame commonplace. The book first appeared in English in 1907: the present translation is from the edition of 1955. During those fifty years the text has not been substantially changed; a selection of more recent works has been added to the references, but surprisingly few considering the studies published over the last half-century. The translation is, on the whole, an improvement on that of the earlier one, but in phrase after phrase the reader is reminded of the French, and irked by a leisurely style, that now seems somewhat archaic. What is entirely new in this edition is the valuable bibliography of Delehaye's multitudinous books and articles, and a memoir that is interesting though out of harmony with the rest.

GODFREY ANSTRUTHER, O.P.

THE ECUMENICAL COUNCIL, THE CHURCH AND CHRISTENDOM, by Lorenz Jaeger; G. Chapman, 21s.

The author of this book is Archbishop of Paderborn and a member of the Preparatory Commission for the impending Vatican Council: he writes, therefore, with special authority. The book is intended to 'place' the new Council in the context of the conciliar tradition, the pastoral work of the Church in the modern world, and the delicate problems of relations between Catholics and their 'separated brethren'. Archbishop Jaeger is admirably equipped for his task. Immensely well-read, he ranges over historical problems, theological issues, makes acute observations on contemporary problems, shows prudence and, above all, an informed and quite unsentimental charity. His thesis is that the new council will be thoroughly within the traditional conception of a Council, and like the other councils it will have its unique con-