A DAPTO CENTENARY

St. John's School at Dapto has just celebrated a centenary; not the centenary of Catholic education in Dapto (which goes back at least to 1839), but the centenary of the arrival in Dapto of the Sisters of St. Joseph, who have conducted the Catholic primary school ever since, and since 1964 have added to their responsibilities by conducting St. Anne's College as a secondary school for girls.

To mark the occasion Sister Bernadette O'Sullivan's booklet "Nothing Without God" has been published. It is, of course, full of interest to old boys and girls of the schools; it is also a most valuable and interesting contribution to local history, covering a field which has been somewhat neglected by previous historians (including this reviewer, whose only excuse is Dr. Johnson's: "Ignorance, madam, pure ignorance"). Certainly Sister Bernadette's researches have unearthed a great deal of material not previously available, covering the history not only of the school but of the Catholic Church in Dapto from its first beginnings in the 1830's.

The title of the booklet has its own story. It was the motto of the Petres, a famous old English Catholic family, one of whom was the Parish Priest when the Sisters of St. Joseph came to Dapto. (He was probably the only priest to finish up in the House of Lords).

The book is well produced and illustrated. If you are an old boy or old girl, don't miss it—you may see yourself in a guise which will surprise you; if you are not, but are interested in the history of Dapto and Illawarra generally, don't miss it.

The price is $2.00. The booklet is obtainable from the Convent, from A Gallagher, 18 Werowi Street, Dapto, or from Mrs. E. Learmonth, Dolan's Drapery Store, Princes Highway, Dapto (opposite the hotel). Postage on mail orders 50c.