

of the whole created order at the end of time. If this volume is in any way pre-eminent among its author's major works, it is perhaps in the striking aphorisms, even more numerous and enlightening than we have grown to expect. Among the most arresting may be instanced these hard sayings 'I suffer, therefore I exist'. 'It is not man who is human but God.' '. . . it is God who demands that man should be free, and not man himself.' 'Beauty is the expression of the infinite life in finite form.'

C.H.V.

CANTERBURY CATHEDRAL IN THE MIDDLE AGES. By C. S. Phillips, D.D. (S.P.C.K.; 2s.6d.)

This is a very useful and scholarly brochure produced in the attractive manner which we have come to associate with the S.P.C.K. Though written by an Anglican clergyman who apparently believes in the continuity of the Elizabethan Establishment with the Church of St Augustine and St Thomas a casual glance at the text should be sufficient to show how essentially different was the purpose of this and every other Cathedral in medieval times to their present-day use. The daily round of Mass and Divine Office is correctly emphasised as well as the fact that Canterbury, like several other English Cathedrals, was staffed by Benedictines and therefore used the monastic Breviary. The special feasts are noted and the offices peculiar to Canterbury are discussed in a clear and concise manner. There is something, too, about the musical side of the Liturgy. There are some interesting details concerning special functions when visiting notabilities in Church and State were present and took their part in the processions and other ceremonies. On such occasions a visiting abbot or abbess would 'process' side by side with the Cathedral prior, an abbot on his left and an abbess on his right. These and many other facts not generally known are here set forth with copious notes and references. Dr Phillips is to be congratulated on a very useful and eminently readable piece of work.

E. T. LONG

ERASMUS, TYNDALE AND MORE. By W. E. Campbell. (Eyre and Spottiswoode; 15s.)

THE ELIZABETHAN HOUSE OF COMMONS. By J. E. Neale. (Cape; 18s.)

These two works are useful contributions to our knowledge of Tudor England. Mr Campbell has combined the biographies of Erasmus, Tyndale and More to show their respective contributions to the Reformation epoch, Erasmus as the great Renaissance figure whose learning was at the service of the Church; Tyndale, a translator of the Bible like Erasmus, and like him connected with Cambridge (though an Oxford graduate), but inspired by a hatred of the Church which made his masterly translation an attack upon it; and More, whose controversial writings against Tyndale are the

particular concern of Mr Campbell. Of the three figures, that of Erasmus emerges the most clearly, mainly because Mr Campbell has allowed himself to comment on the original sources rather than quote them. This picture of the first great modern European *savant* is most valuable. In his treatment of More he has not been so happy, for he has, out of piety for the great saint, overloaded his text with excerpts from More's writings and, even if More is an acknowledged master in the development of English prose style, he does not make easy reading.

The link between these two works is the Reformation Parliament, the instrument which Henry VIII employed to bring about the apostasy of his country from Rome, thereby enormously increasing the power of that body, and especially that of the House of Commons. Professor Neale is a master of the use of materials and his narrative runs easily, though it is based throughout upon research into original documents conducted either by himself or by his pupils, to whom he gives grateful acknowledgment. This detailed survey of the composition of the Elizabethan House of Commons, the technique of elections, the character of M.P.s, the procedure and temper of the House, is a most important contribution to our knowledge of English History and a pioneer work, for there is still an enormous mass of research to be done on the work and composition of our Parliaments. Two points emerge clearly, the prestige and importance of the county members, almost exclusively belonging to great territorial families; and the extreme diversity of the borough members, who were comparatively rarely citizens of the towns they represented, but were drawn, by curious means, from the ranks of lawyers and court officials and, above all, from the junior members of the country gentry who could not obtain county constituencies. This swamping of the House by the Protestant gentry was a cardinal factor in the course of English history and the source of the Commons' victory in the constitutional struggles of the next century. Unlike Mr Campbell's work, that of Professor Neale is not primarily apologetic, but he shows a complacency towards certain aspects of his story which a Catholic cannot share. His chapters on 'Borough Patrons', for example, will bear a different aspect if the term 'anti-Catholic' is substituted for his favourite 'Puritan' throughout. But it would be ungenerous to make a purely partisan criticism of what is a most valuable, readable and original contribution to English history.

P.F.

HENRY THE EIGHTH. By Theodore Maynard. (The Bruce Publishing Company, Milwaukee; \$3.75.)

A question in a recent examination invited candidates to discuss the theory that history was better written by the Victorians than by their successors. The reading of many biographies suggests that the thesis might prove interesting if applied exclusively to this field.