

STALIN. By I. Deutscher. (Oxford University Press; 25s.)

This long and somewhat austere life of Stalin is likely to remain a standard work for many years to come. In its treatment of the subject, obviously the result of patient and detailed research, the difficulties of the biographer of a demi-god who is still living are obvious. The early part of Stalin's life is treated in great detail, but once Stalin assumes power and becomes *the* public figure of Russia further private revelations are impossible. All that the researcher can do, and Mr Deutscher has done it splendidly, is to give the public record and speculate on it.

The contrast with Trotsky's picture of the mediocre party servant is striking. Stalin emerges from this work as a leader who cultivated power and the way leading to power with great single-mindedness. He may have started as the servant of an insurgent people, says Mr Deutscher, but he made himself its master, and this by means of a political machine. Eventually he liquidated those who had served to hoist him to power, and now he remains on the pinnacle, surrounded by the stench of the rivers of blood he has loosed and the adulation of the men, his minor selves, who depend so utterly on him. J.F.

MILITARY ATTACHÉ IN MOSCOW. By Richard Hilton.

THE GREEK SEDITION. By F. A. Voigt. (Both Hollis and Carter; 10s. 6d. each.)

The two books under review are useful studies of Communism at work, the first at its centre, Moscow, the second on its periphery in Greece. The account of his life at the Embassy written by Major-General Hilton is a very readable one and many of his experiences would be amusing if there were not the tragic background of the Communist tyranny there all the time. The book is, indeed, a record of the author's deepening realisation of its horror and its oppression of the Russian people. He ends by making very clear the impossibility of any compromise between Christianity and the Communist system. Mr Voigt, on the other hand, is a rather heavy writer and is concerned to give an objective account of the attempt by Communism to dominate Greece. This he has studied on the spot and illustrates with copious personal information, but the main core of his book is a root-and-branch examination of Communist political methods and their meaning for us in England. This is extremely valuable and clear and he thoroughly justifies his indignation with those English and American publicists who, terrified by the thought that we may be forced to war against Communism, urge upon the Greek Government a 'moderation' which would mean the extinction of that country and the domination of the Middle East by Russia. But this is not a mere matter of imperialism; it is a matter of our common humanity, as, for instance, in the case of the kidnapped Greek children for whom Queen Frederika has appealed

so vainly. There are criticisms to be made of this work in detail, among others that it badly needs a map and an index; but for anyone who has the courage to face dreadful facts before they are forced upon him, the reading of it will prove extremely valuable.

PAUL FOSTER, O.P.

RÉALISME ECONOMIQUE ET PROGRÈS SOCIAL. (Gabalda, Paris; n.p.)

These papers read at the Semaine Sociale de France held at Lille in 1949 form a book of over four hundred pages which will be extremely useful to the student of economics and social science who wishes to acquire a comprehensive view of social conditions in Europe and America. The main object of this session was to investigate the relation between economics and ethics: to try to overcome the impasse created by the impact of apparently insoluble economic impossibilities upon the endeavour to ameliorate the social conditions of the masses. With this end in view the session begins with a 'tour d'horizon', a bird's-eye view of the relations between economics and sociology during the last two centuries in Europe, Russia and America. English readers will be particularly interested in Mr Michael Fogarty's masterly survey of the position in Britain. The second half of the book is concerned with such questions as political structures, administration, organisation, modernisation of equipment, monetary stability and the distribution of national revenue in their relation to social progress.

The motive behind the various papers is set out among the general conclusions at the end of the book. It is the definition and institution of an economic order which, introduced into the economic activities of organic bodies and orientated towards the common good, will preserve the largest possible area of initiative and responsibility. Two extremes are rejected: the conception of property which subordinates the good of the community and of the workers to the arbitrary control of a capitalism directed solely towards profit, and the equally bad alternative of an economic régime from which are excluded the essential liberties of man, without which there can be no true humanity.

A useful bibliography accompanies some of the papers and every serious student of economics and sociology will find much of interest and value in this book.

D.M.

QUAKER SOCIAL HISTORY (1669-1738). By Arnold Lloyd. (Longmans; 21s.)

The history of which Dr Lloyd writes is not that of the social teachings of the Society of Friends. His book is not intended to be a companion to Tawney. But in treating of the elaboration of the structure of this Society from its first evangelical fervour when it had no system but relied on the direct inspiration of the inward voice of