

standard of the preceding volume is surpassed in this one. Epigrams make the pages of this work a truly pyrotechnic display, and but for the too often used appellative "laborious" the use of adjectives in the short sketches of the various characters is good. The picture of European history given in this volume illustrates the truth that, fundamentally, this world is ruled by stupidity, and that knowledge of history, or to put it into plainer language, past experience, cannot prevent the continual repetition of the same mistakes. Perhaps "stupidity triumphant" would be a very apt label to any book of general history. The hostile-agnostic attitude towards religion which pervades Volume I is to be found again here side by side with the author's strong Whig prejudices.

This volume opens with the Renaissance. It seems a pity that while treating of this most important period the author has not availed himself of the latest and very important contributions on the subject, a fact shown not only by the chapter itself but also by the bibliography at the end of it. So, for instance, the numerous contributions towards a clearer conception of the Renaissance by the late Professor Burdach are neglected in favour of the more picturesque and out-of-date works of Burkhardt and John Addington Symonds, while the very important contributions to the understanding of the Renaissance in Northern Europe by Huizinga and Cartellieri are also passed over. Although this work is by no means free from inexactitudes, some instances of which have appeared in other reviews, the number of them is very much smaller than that of the preceding volume. It would be most desirable however that both volumes should be carefully revised before a new edition of them is issued. Like its elder brother, this volume makes very attractive reading, and a careful study of it should prove very useful to the politician as well as to the historian and the layman. Small incidents provoked great changes. They were sparks which, though harmless *per se*, were capable of producing a serious explosion in a room filled with gas, and Mr. Fisher is a master in finding the causes that produced the gas. Experience of these two volumes makes us look forward eagerly to the third and final volume.

ROBERTO WEISS.

SAINT PETER CANISIUS, S.J., 1521-1597. By James Brodrick, S.J. (Sheed & Ward; 25/-.)

Fr. Brodrick, in an over-modest preface, apologetically thanks publishers and printers for "shouldering a monstrous burden." Yet they may well be proud to give to the world this specimen of model hagiography. "This is not everybody's book," he says. The reviewer, at any rate, has seldom been more thrilled by a biography.

True, the author had much to lighten his task. "No saint in the

Catholic Church has had his correspondence edited with more devotion and scrupulous accuracy," he writes, referring to the work of Fr. Otto Braunsberger, to whose memory the volume is dedicated. And then there is the absorbing personality of Peter himself and the fascination of his adventurous life. The wrapper recalls what Neville Figgis wrote of him: "His energy and sweetness of character, his tact and understanding of the needs of Germany, his devoted and self-denying life, his resolve to shame the Catholic 'respectables' and to uphold the highest standard of morals both in private and public life." The crudely wild boy "with plenty of red blood in his veins," yet withal the ponderous, unimaginative Dutchman who became the serious, priggish convert of Cologne University; the devoted Jesuit disciple of Peter Faber; then the indefatigable Second Apostle who saved German Catholicism—his multitudinous writings which have made of him a Doctor of the Church; tireless travels; contagious enthusiasm—it is an enthralling story.

Fr. Brodrick tells it uncommonly well. Unobtrusive scholarship, a fluent, virile style that always fits the theme, a warm but detached human sympathy and, not least, an undercurrent of rich humour, make the 850 odd pages joyous reading. And, besides Peter's Life—truly "as fine an inspiration for Christian men in 1935 as it had promise of deliverance for Christian men in 1535"—there are brilliant sidelights on his Times which make the book a real contribution to history and the study of the strange ways of humankind. There are also fine illustrations, a copious index and a map of Peter's journeyings. VICTOR WHITE, O.P.

THE CATHOLIC REVIVAL IN ITALY 1815-1915. By the Rev. H. L. Hughes, D. Litt. (Burns Oates; 6/-.)

The national movements of the nineteenth century in their relation to the Church form a fascinating study; influenced as they inevitably were by the ideas of the French revolution—ideas which during the first half of the century had soaked slowly into the consciousness of Europe—these movements were bound at first to come into conflict with the material interests of the Church as with those of other established institutions. In Italy this conflict is of peculiar interest, for it illustrates the gradual solution of a problem which was vital not only to that country but to the whole Catholic world, namely, the reconciliation of the new order of things with the age-long inviolability of the Holy See.

Father Hughes has set himself to describe the effects of this struggle, and we shall deal first with the final chapter of the book which in twenty-five lucid and well-balanced pages sums up the whole history of the movement.

The author rightly gives great importance to the year 1848 as