THE PARADOX OF SCOTTISH CULTURE, by David Daiches ; *Oxford University Press, 10s. 6d.*

This book, subtitled 'The Eighteenth Century Experience', contains the text of three lectures given in McMaster University, Hamilton, Ontario. Nothing by Professor Daiches could be dull or uninteresting, but it is disappointing to find little more than highly competent repetition of a familiar story in these pages. The first essay on the cultural consequences of the Union of 1707, and the third, entertainingly titled 'The Heavenly City of the Edinburgh Philosophers', will be useful to students of the period. The second essay, on national institutions, namely the Church and the Law, is weak. It is not based on knowledge of recent research, and repeats worn-out general-izations such as that which identifies the Reforma-tion Church with anti-French feeling. There was opposition to the political manoeuvres of the Guise family, but cultural ties between France and Scotland continued to be important. The Scottish reformers, John Knox and Andrew Melville, are themselves reminders of this. We cannot under-stand the Scottish intellectual climate after 1560 without some appreciation of the extent of French influence. It is extraordinary how long after 1560 France continued to be the land of opportunity for the Scots lad of parts, whether Catholic or Calvinist.

*A.R.*