

watching and penitential prayer for the world. If Lichfield was indeed the preacher, such passages gain an added significance, for an anchorhold was attached to his London church, where at times women, later men, were enclosed; the rector's experience of them may not have been altogether happy. There are other marks of the special circumstances for which this compilation was made: the similes by which God is compared with the point of the draughtsman's compass, and the Christian life with a well-ruled, well-written book, suggest that the sermon was meant for persons among whom craftsmanship and literacy were common; and in the long addition with which it ends the preacher draws a picture of lay spiritual life which accords well with other contemporary accounts of fifteenth-century London religion. 'Many men attach more importance to their own devotions than they do to the laws of Holy Church. They are more devout in saying prayers and orisons of their own selection and to their own taste than they are in saying matins, their hours and evensong. . . .' All this passage, and indeed the whole sermon, merits close attention from students of medieval English piety.

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THE PENGUIN BOOK OF SPANISH VERSE. Edited by J. M. Cohen. (Penguin Books; 5s.)

The only nerve-calming way to review an anthology is to restrict comment to what is in it. Accordingly this collection may be warmly welcomed as a good five-shillingsworth of close on three hundred poems covering the two periods of *c.* 1200-1700 and *c.* 1870 to more or less the present day. The enquiring reader may be assured that there were poets during the gap Mr Cohen has elected to leave. Spanish-American as well as Peninsular poets are included, though not on any clearly discernible principle. The poems are accompanied by prose versions at the foot of the page. They are modest and unpretentious and Mr Cohen disarms criticism in his Introduction, but the reviewer's duty is to point out their unreliability; for example: Anaxeretes was a woman (p. 145); León is mistranslated on page 161; St John of the Cross is particularly ill-treated (pp. 180-2). These are random samplings. Mr Cohen's brief comments on the poets in the table of contents and his Introduction are sensitive and sympathetic, but he is astray on Luis de León (p. xii), and cribs come at Christmas, not Easter (p. xiv). He is puzzling on Bécquer, one could quarrel with his judgment on Darío; but he is shrewd on Lorca, though one wonders about his notion that it will be for the Sánchez Mejías poem that his name will live: he wrote better poetry and the plays. Blood and bullfights are, I think, out.

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