

posal. They reject totalitarianism of both left and right, and declare their faith in human personality, in self-sacrifice for the common good, and in democracy at its best; they see science as the instrument of a new social order. But there is room for a work in which science and education would both be considered in relation to the vast political and social changes, the new attitude to work, the new respect for the family, the new forms of ownership, which these ideals necessitate, and without which the application of science can only lead to deeper materialism.

E. F. CALDIN.

THEOLOGY

THE SCREWTAPE LETTERS. By C. S. Lewis. (Geoffrey Bles; 5s.)

These letters were written by an Under Secretary in the bureaucracy of hell to his nephew Wormwood, a young fiend on temptation duty, to advise him on his treatment of the 'patient' entrusted to him. Despite Screwtape's 'do keep everything under lock and key,' the letters fell into Mr. Lewis's hands, and he has published them. As might be expected, they are very shrewd. Any Christian who may feel that he is hardly likely to learn anything from them can ask himself how much he knows about the Law of Undulation, the Generous Conflict Illusion, the Same Old Thing, or Christianity And, and whether he could name the chief triumphs of the enemy's philological arm. It may be doubted whether the loss of these letters was entirely surprising to Screwtape himself: he has a poor opinion of his nephew's capacity—after all, he lost his man—and little confidence in the conduct of the training college under Slubgob. But it does appear to have caused him some inconvenience, if we may accept as his a mutilated fragment that has recently been discovered and seems to form part of his report on the incident. It reads thus: '. . . hands of one of the Enemy's Intelligence Officers . . . Slubgob's . . . much exaggerated. No such result need be apprehended . . . only once had occasion to use a secretary, and the suggestion of Interpolation or Interpretation, which has proved so successful in discrediting Enemy documents, is therefore unsuitable. But I do not see why it should have more disastrous results than a number of other books from which we ourselves have learnt much and which were until recently in use at the training college, but by which humans have generally failed to profit. Even though it is being widely read, much could be achieved by inducing them to recognise their neighbours and friends in it. The method is not new, but it has always been very successful. That my letters not only reveal our own strategy and tactics but are likely to give a deeper appreciation of the Enemy's . . .' The rest of the document is wanting.

A. E. H. SWINSTEAD.