

HIGH ARE THE MOUNTAINS. By Hannah Closs (Andrew Dakers; 10s. 6d.).

This is a novel—a piece of high writing which derives, according to previous works, from Walter Pater. A few examples will show the injustice done to Pater by the comparison:

‘His breath came in short convulsive gasps and his heart pounded against his ribs. At last, his pulses quietened . . .’

‘. . . the long, jagged ridge of blue rising against the horizon.’

‘. . . the hated name still ringing in his ears, the boy sped on.’

The book, in short, is written in a series of clichés and what might have been a fine story is obscured by this ‘fine writing,’ pretentious enough, unless the style has altered vastly since the last novel, to deceive the reviewers. But then, books like *Anthony Adverse* and *Gone with the Wind* were also thought to be great novels. L.T.

CHRISTIANITY AND THE WORLD OF NATIONS. By George F. MacLeod (Friends Peace Committee; 4d.).

In his powerful broadcast, here reprinted by the Friends to encourage European relief, the founder of the Iona Community dealt with the apparent cleavage between ‘heart and hand.’ Can the Church fill the vacuum left by the war? For Dr MacLeod the foundation Word of the Church is ‘Forgiveness,’ and if each individual Christian put that word into effect in Europe today the infinite power of faith would gather men together once again. A pamphlet to be pondered. C.P.

THE FRIENDS AMBULANCE UNIT. Sixth Annual Report. 1946 (4 Gordon Square, W.C1.).

The unit comprises some 700 young men and women, of whom in January 150 were in Germany and 120 in China. Their immense work for relief all over the world is out of all proportion to their numbers, and those interested will need this well-produced and attractively illustrated brochure to convince them of the reality of so varied and extensive and humanitarian work. Wherever men are hungry or shelterless this Quaker organization finds itself administering first-aid relief preparatory to handing over to the bigger and slower working official organizations like U.N.R.R.A. We can only wish that Catholics might emulate the Society of Friends in this matter. C.P.

PACIFISM AS AN INDIVIDUAL DUTY. By Rev. E. L. Allen. (Central Board for Conscientious Objectors; 6d.).

This is the first part of a reply to a reasoned attack on pacifism by Professor G. C. Field. The defendant has a fairly straight-forward task in trying to show the necessity for some absolute standards of morality. But the whole discussion reveals the maze of uncertainty the modern world has reached through its rejection of the Church’s objective moral standards. The question will never be successfully settled till the nature of the human act, the relation of means to ends, the specification of the will, and such-like are understood. At one time the Church was accused of making the end justify the means; now the paganzed world has adopted that error for its own