

PERIODICALS

The co-incidence of War and Christmas produced its inevitable crop of banalities; but also some profound and helpful reflection. Jacques Malègue was provoked to an inspiring article in *La Vie Intellectuelle*, and there was a solid grasp of fundamental Christian realities as revealed at Bethlehem in Dorothy Sayers' 'Supplement' to *The Christian News-Letter*.

The same number of *La Vie Intellectuelle* contained distressing information from Kurt Türmer on German Catholics and the War. From it Penguin learns that much of the pabulum which nourished him before the war has now ceased to exist. On pretext of paper-shortage all Catholic weeklies in Germany have been suppressed with the exception of the erastian *Wiener Kirchenblatt*. (*Schönere Zukunft* and *Zeit im Querschnitt* were among the most enlightened weeklies that came our way.) Gardini's *Quickborn* group has been suppressed, and with it *Schildgenossen*, perhaps the most original and constructive of Catholic reviews. Nothing is said of the fate of *Hochland* and *Stimmen der Zeit*.

Other important *Vie Intellectuelle* contributions are 'Devant la masse précédemment communiste' by 'Civis'—on the challenge and opportunity which the Communist débâcle presents to Catholics—and the reflections of Daniel-Rops on recent Stalinist diplomacy and aggression. He shows these to be far from the 'betrayal' of Marxist orthodoxy which ex-Popular Frontists would like to believe, but a perfectly consistent application of Communist revolutionary theory.

Current periodicals, of course, contain many articles on the Encyclical *Summi Pontificatus*. Particularly noteworthy were that by Fr. Philip Hughes in *The Dublin Review*, and the appreciation which Professor Ernest Barker contributed to *The Christian News-Letter*.

The January *Theology* carries a penetrating 'Scrutiny of Contemporary Remorse' with the title 'Paradise Lost without Tears' from the pen of the Rev. W. R. Jarrett Kerr. Its theme, that of the 'rediscovery of original sin in contemporary literature,' also runs through Fr. S. J. Gosling's 'Catholicism and the Modern Novel' in the January *Dublin*—a thoughtful article on the importance and function of the Catholic literary critic which, with assistance from Newman, vindicates the programme proposed by Mr. Martin Turnell. Mr. Turnell himself contributes an admirable example of it in a criticism of *Wuthering Heights*.

Another valuable *Dublin* item is the unassuming but nicely balanced criticism by Fr. Alphonsus Bonnar, O.F.M., of Freud's *Moses and Monotheism*. He distinguishes carefully Freud's philosophical and religious prejudices from his empirical discoveries and his theory of mental dynamics, shows the inherent inconsistencies and unscientific methodology in his unhappy swan-song, and concludes by recalling extenuating circumstances. Christian charity and the scientific temper combine admirably in repelling this over-rated attack on the foundations of revealed religion.

Études, on December 20th, contained valuable documentation on the religion of the French people as revealed by the testimony of soldier-priests, and, on January 5th, a continuation of the excellent 'Histoire Internationale du Temps Présent' by Père Yves de la Brière, treating this time of the Finnish war and its repercussions.

Mr. Donald Attwater blows an 'invigorating blast of fresh air' into the staid pages of *Music and Liturgy* with a frank analysis of the unreality which liturgical forms are liable to assume by reason of their divorce from modern ways of life and thought. He states the problem admirably, but does not take us very far towards a practical solution.

PENGUIN.

BOOKS RECEIVED

- ANGELICUM (Rome): *Thomas De Vio Cardinalis Cajetanus, Scripta Philosophica Commentaria in Prædicamenta Aristotelis*, M. H. Laurent, O.P. (L. 16).
- BLOUD ET GAY (Paris): *La Souffrance*, M. Nédoncelle (5 frs.).
- BURNS OATES AND WASHBOURNE: *The Catholic Who's Who, 1940* (6s.); *The Catholic Directory, 1940* (4s.).
- EDITIONS DU CERF (Paris): *Construction de la Paix*, Thomas Deman, O.P. (Pp. 76, n.p.).
- GEOFFREY BLES: *Christianity and the Other Religions*, C. J. Shebbeare (3s. 6d.).
- MACMILLAN: *The Materialist Conception of History, A Critical Analysis*, Karl Federn (10s. 6d.).
- OXFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS: *The Point of View, etc.*, Sören Kierkegaard, tr. Walter Cowne (7s. 6d.).
- REALE ACCADEMIA D'ITALIA (Roma): *Tommaso Campanella: Epilogo Magno (Fisiologia Italiano) Testo Italiano Inedito*, Carmelo Ottaviano (L. 50).
- SHEED AND WARD: *A Preface to Metaphysics*, Jacques Maritain (6s.).