

the pre-eminence of his right hand, is represented as at the heart of that dualism.

This translation will be most welcome. The original French edition is not easily accessible, and, indeed, not widely known in the country, and this volume is all the more valuable in that Hertz's original references have been meticulously checked and corrected, and a few additional notes added by Dr Needham. Besides, we now have a critical discussion of the essays by Professor Evans-Pritchard, stressing the importance of the French sociological writers; this, he says, is the third translation to appear in what it is hoped may become a continuing series. For their historical importance then as well as their influence in modern social anthropology these essays are well worth study. What is more, anyone who is interested in some of the symbolism implicit in our life and language will still find a rich harvest in *Death and The Right Hand*.

RUTH FINNEGAN

ST FRANCIS DE SALES: Selected Letters. Translated with an introduction by Elizabeth Stopp. (Faber; 25s.)

This book should be welcome to both private and public libraries. The introduction has some twenty-six pages, and the letters, one hundred and twenty-five in all, are well chosen. There is also an interesting Index of Correspondents as well as an Index of Letters with reference to the Annecy edition. The General Index is brief but adequate.

The translations read smoothly, and there are no awkward pauses due to those obvious gallicisms which are unfortunately not rare in present-day translations of this kind of literature. Perhaps there is a slight insistence of the use of the semi-colon, where a shorter, complete sentence would have been more acceptable. This is more apparent in the middle section of the book. Letter 10, page 89, gives a direct translation of what the *Présidente Brulart* evidently said herself to St Francis: . . . 'as long as I am serving God I don't care what kind of sauce he puts me in'. This is rather curious to the English reader who has unfortunately too long associated 'sauce' with something coloured in a bottle, rather than a concoction of artistry.

One can easily condone such a triviality, however, when reading the beautiful rendering of Letter 4 (Annecy XII) to the *Baronne de Chantal*. Here the translator has evidently been moved by what is a lovely pice of writing in the original, and has done it full justice.

The arrangement of the letters is perhaps a little annoying; it would have given more satisfaction if one could have seen, as a whole, the treatment of one correspondent. Instead, we are broken off from *Madame de la Fléchère* and returned to St Jane Frances. Nothing much is gained, a little is lost.

The introduction gives a short, clear sketch of the saint's life with the right emphasis on familiar landmarks. Objection might be raised to the statement that Granier 'did the best possible thing for him (St Francis) at this stage by appointing him to the Chablais' (Introd., p. 18). More light, if needed, is shed on this most generous of characters if, as is surely true, it

were pointed out that St Francis *offered* to go, even though he was lovingly led on to make the offer by the Bishop.

The above observations are mere pin-pricks on a work which has been most smoothly and often delicately fashioned. And how delightful to see Gambart's lovely print with its motto which epitomizes this great saint's advice to others: *Medium tenere beati*.

D. A. RAFFERTY

DE GAULLE'S REPUBLIC. By Philip M. Williams and Martin Harrison. (Longmans; 25s.)

THE FIFTH FRENCH REPUBLIC. By Dorothy Pickles. (Methuen; 15s.)

These two books may seem very similar, judged by their subjects and titles, but to read them gives a very different impression. For there is a big difference between *De Gaulle's Republic* (more up-to-date, more penetrating, more complete) and *The Fifth French Republic*, both as to their value and as to their theme. The first tries to embrace the French problem in all its historical complexity, both political and social, while the second, a little summary in its analyses, concentrates almost exclusively on institutions, which are described objectively if a little flatly. However, there is an advantage in reading them both, for *The Fifth Republic* is, as it were, a juridical counter-balance to the other, and for that reason gives many details which the specialist will be glad to have. In any case both books raise the essential questions (the first directly, the second indirectly) which everyone is asking: Is the Fifth Republic truly republican? Will the Fifth Republic survive General de Gaulle? And these are questions, it must be recognized, where texts matter less than a knowledge of the French personality as confronted by the dominant factor of the personality of the present President.

But if there are these differences, nevertheless some criticisms can be applied to both books alike. In reading these authors, the Frenchman will, for instance, be inclined to resent a rather academic insistence on 'French instability' (a familiar theme), which arises from the fact that Englishmen (like Frenchmen) have a direct experience of political parties, but at the level of governmental responsibilities policies are so divergent that any real estimate is difficult to arrive at. Another thing in common between Miss Pickles and the authors of *De Gaulle's Republic* is that they never succeed in 'feeling' the Algerian problem. Here, too, their knowledge remains theoretical and external. How could it have been otherwise? The truth is that the Algerian affair is for the French themselves in some sense an equivocal matter, at once too near and too far (and a large part of the danger derives indeed from this very fact). It disturbs everyone without apparently threatening anyone and only affects the general French public indirectly (though in a catastrophic way). In this connection M. Mendès France said to me: 'The Algerian war is a buzzing in the ear of every Frenchman'. One has to hear that buzzing (and no doubt only Frenchmen can) in order to understand the problem in its totality. It is only then that one will avoid—and these authors don't always avoid—falling into an excessive severity in regard to the Fourth (and even the Fifth) Republic, for indeed what