

His lectures suggested new possibilities in research, both to art historians and to students of economics. Their publication will remain one of the chief events in the development of scientific church history.

GERVASE MATHEW, O.P.

THE HELLENISTIC CIVILISATION AND EAST ROME. By Norman H. Baynes. The James Bryce Memorial Lecture, 1945. (Oxford University Press; 1s. 6d.)

The theme of this lecture is the continuity of Hellenistic civilisation in the Eastern Mediterranean. Under the Romans and under the Christian emperors of Byzantium the thought-world of East Rome was determined essentially by the Hellenistic outlook, to such a degree that the Byzantines may be called the intellectual heirs of the Hellenistic Age. Notes have been added to what is a learned, suggestive and very readable essay.

A. R.

HISTORY OF BRITAIN IN MODERN TIMES, 1688-1939. By Christopher Hollis, B.A. (Hollis and Carter; 6s.)

Mr Hollis, who nowadays is publisher, journalist and Member of Parliament, has in the past been a schoolmaster, and he has succumbed to the temptation, which all schoolmasters experience, to write his ideal text-book. The one he has given us contains many excellent things, lucid descriptions of historical developments and financial and economic factors in modern history. His review of the years 1919-1939 is an excellent example of his capacity for tracing the economic history of a period. But as a text-book for schools there are several important reservations to be made about it. In the first place, it attempts to cover far too much ground. For proper consideration of the last 250 years of British history, with a good deal of European and American history thrown in, at least two volumes of this size would be required. The attempt to compress so much into so little has resulted, for instance, in Disraeli's 1874-1880 Government being dismissed in a paragraph. The arrangement of the chapters is somewhat confusing and occasionally produces repetitions of events already dealt with. There are a certain number of inaccuracies, especially in the earlier pages, and the illustrations are not happily chosen. If only two (out of eight) refer to the period after 1815, why should one of them be of Abraham Lincoln? The date summaries are useful, the maps and revision questions moderately well chosen. It is to be regretted, though, that Mr Hollis has not given us what is so badly needed in Catholic schools, a generalised summary of this vital period of history giving, through Catholic eyes, an account of the great operative ideas which lie behind the events, with studies of the men and women who translated these ideas into action. There is a sufficiency of text-books which provide all the facts which this

volume gives us, but a clear Catholic commentary on these facts, as they affect the structure of human society, prepared with honesty and care, is still badly needed. PAUL FOSTER, O.P.

THE ENGLISHMAN BUILDS. By Ralph Tubbs. (Penguin Books; 3s. 6d.)
THE ANATOMY OF THE VILLAGE. By Thomas Sharp. (Ditto; 2s. 6d.)

'We cannot have an organic architecture unless we achieve an organic society'. Lloyd Wright's proposition provides the text for two well-intentioned essays, presented with a typographical distinction and wealth of illustration that makes them excellent value for money. Mr Tubbs relates the story of English architecture to the rhythm of the social history which it reflects, marred though his account is by some astonishingly naive generalisations ('Medieval philosophy had regarded human nature as inherently vile, distrusted human reason, and considered the body essentially evil'—three statements which even the Rationalist Press might find it hard to substantiate).

Mr Sharp sticks more closely to his text, and his analysis (with excellent diagrams) of the design of the English village is brilliantly done. His book should be in the hands of those planners who envisage architecture as an instrument for imposing a policy rather than as the servant of human needs. In architecture, as in much else besides, we get what we deserve; and the traditional rightness of rural building was the fruit of an ordered society, in which things were made for use, and beauty most triumphantly looked after herself. It remains to be seen whether bureaucracy can improve on the 'tyranny' of landlords, which gave to the English countryside the pattern which the planners are compelled to admire. The 'sympathetic and informed understanding of the deep subtleties that lie at the heart of village character' for which Mr Sharp so justly appeals can only come about when the land, and the life which springs from it, is recognised for what it is—the heart of the nation. I. E.

THE PAPACY AND WORLD PEACE. By Guido Gonella. (Hollis and Carter; 12s. 6d.)

It may be thought fantastic that after a fruitless and disastrous war, fought only to replace one hydra-headed aggression by another, the word *war* should still be found in the vocabulary of possibilities. Man is a strange race, however; the very brutes might marvel at a species that kills its kind with less than an argument for the slaughter and not even a use for the carcase. A dog twice beaten learns his lesson; but two international massacres in a generation are not enough to teach us ours. It might again be thought preposterous that members of the Mystical Body of Christ should engage in the wholesale rending asunder that Body, were we not familiar with the spectacle of English Catholics (or at least some of the more distinguished of them) busily—and overmuch—protesting, lest they be thought laggards in bellicose patriotism. So that there linger in the memory, voices shouting a little louder than the rest, denunciation