

political society and plant community. In the first the management is supreme and is responsible to a board of directors which would include representatives of the investor, management itself and the worker, as well as a number of 'management auditors'. The investor would have no legal title of ownership but merely a claim to economic rewards. The second would also be the affair of management, but jointly with the workers and their unions. The third, everything not directly concerned with the plant as an economic unit, like canteens, clubs, health and safety regulations, would be the concern of the workers' community.

The worker's sense of insecurity would be banished by giving him a knowledge of what income and employment he can expect—not full employment but a minimum annual wage—as well as profit-sharing. This latter would not be through a share-out but by funding the amount and having the workers administer the fund.

On many points of detail one would disagree with Dr Drucker. He is too glib in dismissing the effects of monotony, because the fundamental fact is that where no personal manual skill is required the worker is expendable, and knows it. So far it has not been shown that social skills can be made as indispensable as craft skills at the shop level. There is a fallacy in his parallel between the dual allegiance owed by the medieval citizen to Church and State and the dual allegiance owed by the industrial worker of today to his firm and to his union. His dismisses too summarily the use of public works programmes for counter-acting depressions. Most of all, while his touch is sure when dealing with the American industrial scene, his comments on England are never completely accurate. Thus, to take one example, is it true that a Trade Union leader in England will be greatly influenced in his actions because he may gain 'prestige and recognition' by appointment to a Royal Commission? Nevertheless, apart from these details, this is a most important and practical book which, by its analysis of the place of management and of the Union, cannot be neglected in any discussion of the future of free enterprise. In fact, it is one of the best detailed and reasoned defences of the enterprise as an autonomous self-governing unit in a competitive market that has appeared so far.

JOHN FITZSIMONS

THE MIDDLE AGES IN THE WEST. By Sir Henry Slessor. (Hutchinson; second edition; 21s.)

This is a book which might be quickly, even impatiently, dismissed by scholars; understandably, but regrettably. There is a good deal in it of the kind of historical inaccuracy to be found among highly educated people dependent for their history on contemporary fashionable authorities who write general surveys of this or that period or aspect of English or European history. Its weakness, therefore, is not peculiar

to its author and scarcely calls for censure in him, since, unlike others who show it, he is not a professional historian.

Its value lies in the new light it directs on the Middle Ages, even as commonly known. The author is a distinguished thinker in his own field, and his legal interest has made him examine much that others would pass over. His book puts forward fruitful ideas, suggests new interest in well-worn material, and is on that account worth attention. It brings into the foreground some important aspects of the Middle Ages, not yet generally appreciated. If it has little of the rhetorical brilliance which gilds the loose generalisations of some history dons, it has a humility and sincerity which deserve respect.

ANTHONY ROSS, O.P.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BRITISH ACADEMY, 1946. (Oxford University Press; 40s.)

Volumes of the Academy's *Proceedings* inevitably appear, in these days, long after the separate publication and review of the papers which they contain. They include reports on scholarly work sponsored or assisted by the Academy, which bring home to the reader the grave difficulties in the way of sober, unspectacular research when it is not connected with atomic energy or an immediate social programme. They are at the same time inspiring in the evidence they give of scholarship's tenacity. In this context scholarship is historical, philosophical, literary and, occasionally, theological. The volume under notice contains a valuable paper by Dr J. Goronwy Edwards on *Edward I's Castle-Building in Wales* which illuminates the financial history of Edward's reign; Professor H. H. Price's essay, *Thinking and Representation*, already well known; Dr Inge on *Origen*, illustrating the tenacity of other things than learning, but always stimulating; *The Golden Word of King Lear*, by Professor Bickersteth; *Coleridge on Imagination and Fancy*, by Professor Willey; *The Birth of the Dutch Republic*, by Professor G. N. Clark; Dr Bueno de Mesquita on *Some Condottieri of the Trecento*; Dr T. H. Parry-Williams on *Welsh Poetic Diction*; and C. L. Wrenn on *The Poetry of Caedmon*.

Mention should be made especially of the *Obituaries* which are a feature of this and companion volumes. The present volume contains memoirs of Dr Robin Flower, Professor Z. N. Brooke, Lord Keynes, Professor John Laird, Sir John Clapham, Admiral Sir Herbert Richmond, Lord Atkin of Aberdovey and Sir Charles Oman; two of them being wonderfully gracious.

A.R.