

international control for policing the seas? Realism in politics is the fruit of sound Christian thought, and Canon Hudson's book is a welcome proof of this.

E.Q.

THE NEW LEAGUE OF NATIONS. By Luigi Sturzo. (People and Freedom Group, 32 Chepstow Villas, W.11; 3d.)

In this article, reprinted from *The Contemporary Review*, Don Sturzo urges, in support of the Chinese Foreign Minister's suggestion, that the new League of Nations should be established before the end of the war, and warns us of the dangers of improvisation and the absence of a sound political conception. Anglo-Saxon promoters of the League are thus in a dilemma: It is no longer possible to give expression to our genius for improvisation, for adapting institutions to meet changing situations; on the other hand, without a clear political theory it may be very difficult to prevent an unsound ideology from influencing the counsels of the nations.

E.Q.

AN OUTLINE OF EUROPEAN ARCHITECTURE. By Nikolaus Pevsner. (Penguin Books; 9d.)

This is a very adequate piece of work, and so much is compressed into its 160 pages that the word 'Outline' is here almost a misnomer. There are 32 plates, and 47 drawings in the text.

Dr. Pevsner has written a very interesting book; coming from the Continent he is able to treat his subject in the light of a real understanding and knowledge of European history in a way that few English writers could manage.

I cannot agree with Dr. Pevsner's introductory statement that 'A bicycle shed is a building; Lincoln Cathedral is a piece of architecture. Nearly everything that encloses space in a scale sufficient for a human being to move in, is a building; the term architecture applies only to buildings designed with a view to aesthetic appeal.'

The author seems to depart from this definition by including pictures of, and commentary on, such modern buildings as Walter Gropius's Model Factory and the Arno's Grove Underground Station. I hardly think aesthetic appeal was a primary consideration with the designers of these buildings—and a good thing, too! St. Pancras Station is a product of the aesthetic appeal idea. In fact, this would have been an even better book had it treated simply of European *Building*—and dealt with cottages and barns as well as cathedrals, palaces, museums, etc. Such abortions as the Paris Opera would not have been possible had not the 'architect' become divorced from the building gang of which he was originally a member. Incidentally, Dr. Pevsner gives some very interesting information about a

13th century Gothic architect, Villard de Honnecourt. Some drawings from a text-book which he wrote are reproduced and these are very instructive. The omission of any reference to Westminster Cathedral in this book is a defect, since this church is undoubtedly one of the very greatest of modern buildings and not all the deplorable efforts at interior 'decoration' from which it has suffered can hide the fact.

The only building of Pugin's which Dr. Pevsner mentions is the Houses of Parliament, and this is hardly fair as Pugin was responsible for the detail only (one thinks with pleasure of the Gothic inkpots and umbrella-stands!) and was well aware of the building's fundamental defects. Pugin was to the mediæval builders as Eliseus to Elias; he was feeling and thinking his way to great things when cut off by an early death, and when we consider that he had only the degraded and servile 19th century hirelings, instead of free and responsible craftsmen, to carry out his ideas, it is wonderful that he achieved as much as he did. How many citizens of Birmingham realise what a treasure they possess in the interior of St. Chad's Cathedral?

MICHAEL SEWELL.

THE NEWSPAPER. By Ivor Thomas. HOW BRITAIN IS GOVERNED. By R. B. McCallum. (Oxford Pamphlets on Home Affairs. 6d. each.)

These admirably concise essays provide a well-arranged mass of information, together with illuminating comment and analysis of the spirit of our institutions. In the first of them all that relates to the gathering and presentation of news, the conditions in which British newspapers are developed, the ownership of the more important of them, are discussed. In the second the right note is struck from the beginning, where we are reminded of the peculiar strength of the Crown in England; there is also much useful information, attractively presented, about the history of Parliament, the various offices of state, and the organic relationship between electorate and government.

E.Q.

COUNTRY HOARD. By Alison Uttley. (Faber; 6s.)

Of all memories which may be evoked in books, those of childhood and those of the English countryside are among the most delicate, and it should be praise enough for Mrs. Uttley to say that she shows us the bloom on both. Her achievement in this book is by no means equal through all its parts. When she approaches general description, she exhibits some weaknesses of writing which might have been remedied by more simplicity or by more sophistication; there is a superfluity of such words as 'magic,' 'fairy,' 'spell'