

for renewed British leadership in world affairs. The keynote is a warning: 'Recurrence of wars like the present cannot be prevented by a government which commands resources no greater than those of the United Kingdom. . . . We cannot discharge our commitments under the Atlantic Charter unless we create a government which commands wider resources than those of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. . . . Should a system which has failed to prevent two major wars be commended to our Allies as one which can be trusted to prevent future wars?' It is difficult to quarrel with the author's solution of these problems.

HAROLD S. BIDMEAD.

THE ELIZABETHAN WORLD PICTURE. By E. M. W. Tillyard. (Chatto & Windus; 6s.)

This essay grew, as Dr. Tillyard tells us, from the attempted writing of the first chapter of a book on Shakespeare's Histories; and the only regrettable thing about it is that, having been separated from the larger work, it should be so tantalizingly brief. For it is of very great interest; a most useful contribution to the study of the Elizabethan mind, to which 'sermons were as much a part of ordinary . . . life as bear-baiting.' Dr. Tillyard has isolated three themes, which he studies as 'a chain, a set of correspondences, and a dance,' and uses them as a means to penetrate the baffling exterior of Elizabethan literature. The result is not literary criticism, properly speaking: it is rather a source of that kind of information which will render criticism possible—a work of literary initiation, carried out with learning and charm.

But Dr. Tillyard himself calls attention to the fact that he is using the word Elizabethan 'with great laxity, meaning . . . anything between the ages of Henry VIII. and Charles I. akin to the main trends of Elizabethan thought.' Inevitably, then, his theme corresponds in part with that of Mr. Basil Willey, in his study of *The Seventeenth Century Background*, though he does not refer to this. Actually, Dr. Tillyard's book makes a kind of introduction to Mr. Willey's. They need to be read together, for it was in Dr. Tillyard's period that there grew up the mentality and sensibility which Mr. Willey has described so brilliantly, and it is the lack of reference to the 'Baconian' and anti-scholastic elements in Elizabethan thought which prevents Dr. Tillyard's book from being wholly satisfactory.

LUKE TURNER, O.P.

SPIRITUAL READINGS FROM MOTHER ST. PAUL. (Longmans; 15s.)

The publication of this work opens the question of liturgical prayer from a new angle. The compiler has taken from Mother St. Paul's works meditations on the gospels of the temporal cycle and laid them out in order as matter for meditations on a liturgical basis.