

lent choice of illustrations. Many of the continental churches referred to in Mr Hammond's book appear in good photographs, and there are numerous pictures of paintings, carvings and ornaments besides. The emphasis of the book is perhaps excessively Germanic, and Herr Henze's over-rigid categories could be questioned, but text and illustrations alike are a sober reminder of what has already been achieved in restoring the artist to his proper place in the life of the Church.

I. E.

ORIENTAL ESSAYS: Portraits of Seven Scholars. By A. J. Arberry. (Allen and Unwin; 28s.)

Oriental studies in England are not uninfluential; rather their influence is irregular. You may meet quite unacademic persons who are fascinated by Indian sculpture, by the Japanese theatre, by Islamic mysticism; you may hear famous scholars generalizing about Greek vases or about landscape painting without awareness that vases have existed in Persia or landscape in China.

It is, I suppose, more especially the ignorance of the learned that Professor Arberry hopes to pierce by these studies of six predecessors in Arabic, Persian and general Islamic scholarship and by one chapter about his own life and aims. And indeed, if the 'cultured reader' may be expected to take some interest in the work and career of a Bentley or Routh or Housman, why should he not do as much for Simon Ockley or Edward Lane? Above all, what a subject is Sir William Jones, perhaps the most admirable figure among all eighteenth-century men of letters, a master of Eastern and Western learning who reached far beyond literary greatness and whose name is now scarcely known in England!

The material Professor Arberry has is thus very promising indeed, but I fear he fails to do it justice. He often spoils a good narrative by mere clumsiness, and he is oddly insensitive to the English language. He mixes quite inconsistent styles, and his judgment of other men's translations too often confuses their hits and their misses. He himself writes this prose: 'Laura Palmer began to ail, and it was soon clear that consumption, which had robbed Palmer of his father, was out to claim another victim.' He approves this verse of E. G. Browne:

'Up its sleeve the wind, meseemeth, pounded musk hath stored away'.
I deplore this tactless advocacy of an excellent cause.

WALTER SHEWRING

THE FACE OF THE ANCIENT ORIENT. By Sabatino Moscati. (Routledge & Kegan Paul and Vallentine Mitchell; 30s.)

This is a brilliantly conceived book, as we have come to expect from the never-idle pen of Professor Moscati, the Director of the Centre of Semitic studies in the University of Rome. The treatment is original: it began as a series of broadcast lectures on the Radio Italiana in 1955 on the civilizations of the Ancient Orient; the next year the lectures were expanded into a book entitled *Il Profilo dell'Oriente Mediterraneo*, and now this book has appeared