

To those who do not know the Usk valley, *River Diary* will certainly be an inducement to go there. Those who know it will find themselves turning the pages hither and yon to see what Mrs Eastwood says about this, that and the other, from Ffrwdgrech and the Eppynt to Usk town.

D.A.

MORALS SINCE 1900. By Gerald Heard. (The Twentieth Century Histories: Andrew Dakers; 12s. 6d.)

Mr Gerald Heard gives us an impressionistic picture of the changes in manners and behaviour of the past fifty years. He sees that rationalism and materialism are expressions of a *hubris* which has already produced frightful disasters and even raises the question of the survival of human life on this planet. Mr Heard has a synthesising mind, and he succeeds in combining a great deal of miscellaneous and often arbitrarily selected information in such a way that we are presented with an extraordinarily telling picture of a restless and technically versatile society lurching from crisis to crisis with little sense of direction. Some of his comments, in particular those on over rationalistic approaches to problems of sexual relations and to questions of eugenics and public hygiene, will please the Catholic reader, though his remedy for our ills—the development, through techniques elaborated by Indian mystics and American psychologists, of a ‘higher’ consciousness—will seem to them unnecessarily vague. Incidental remarks about Catholicism are not very perceptive. His greatest weakness is that he substitutes ‘absolute values’ for the living God and, in consequence, a cautious and conditional optimism for the virtue of hope. He resembles a little the physicist or chemist with a taste for amateur philosophising in that he is too eager to seize upon the latest hypotheses in the sciences and draw from them philosophical conclusions of startlingly wide scope. The grammatical blunders, misprints or misspellings, and horrid neologisms that abound throughout the book provide an unnecessary obstacle to its being readily understood.

J.M.C.

PASCAL'S PENSÉES. With an English Translation, Brief Notes and Introduction by H. F. Stewart, D.D. (Routledge and Kegan Paul; 21s.)

Pascal crosses the serene sky of the *Grand Siècle* like a sudden cloud, charged with the thunder and lightnings of Sinai. He has a prophetic gift of profound insight into man's estate and redemption, and the power to epitomise doctrine in brief, unforgettable phrases. His apology is one immense ‘argumentum ad hominem’, emphasising the