

NEWMAN AND BLOXAM: *An Oxford Friendship*. By R. D. Middleton. (Oxford University Press; 18s.)

In his famous final Anglican sermon 'The Parting of Friends', Newman, after painting the anguish of a deep friendship severed—David and Jonathan, Noemi and Orpah—goes on to talk of St Paul who loved as his own soul not one alone but a multitude of his converts and disciples. So it was with Newman himself. There are friendships of which we know much: Hurrell Froude, Keble, Pusey, James Hope, Henry Wilberforce; there are others of which we know little, but these lesser friends Newman loved too with an individual affection for each. The publication of their letters shows Hurrell's younger brother William and his family followed through life by the Cardinal's watchful love and care. Isaac Williams's Autobiography shows his affectionate relations with his first curate at Littlemore: this book relates the friendship with Williams's successor.

Bloxam kept Newman's letters and recorded every event of his career. He collected all those details that make history and biography more picturesque. And he gives many hints of the richness in Newman's life not yet unearthed, deep though explorers have delved. Was there ever a man of so many friendships?

Mr Middleton has already given us the story of an older man—the famous Dr Routh of Magdalen. He too was a friend, perhaps the most important patron of that budding writer 'that clever young gentleman of Oriel, Mr Newman'. So Routh called him and to the end of his life of ninety-nine years he spoke of 'the great Newman'. Both Mr Middleton's books are rich with unpublished records. *Newman and Bloxam* is of deep value for the student of Newman's period and personality.

MAISIE WARD

MAURICE BARING: *A Postscript* by Laura Lovat, with some letters and verse. (Hollis and Carter; 10s. 6d.)

The genius of Maurice Baring is not to be estimated by means of a critical survey of his work as a man of letters. His poems are charming, and one of them, the threnody for a dead airman, has its established place in the literature of flying: his novels, delicate, fastidious, written from within the closed and brilliant circle of cosmopolitan aristocracy during the last and most iridescent years of its vanished glitter, have been cherished from the first by the limited number of people who could recognise all their implications and must remain with an increase of value as a moral, social and sumptuary record of the period they now embalm. *C.*, *Cat's Cradle* and *Daphne Adeane* are books Sargent might have illustrated. Others such as *Comfortless Memory* and *A Coat Without Seam* have a peculiar and almost esoteric value for Catholics because of the dryness and reserve with which they handle the mysteries they enshrine. But the sum of these excellencies dwindles before the great, involuntary achievement of Baring's life; the image, almost the idol of