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ous, irrepressible and almost unconsidered outburst of his mysticism, but a studied specimen of the *Arte Nuevo* in fashion at the time, reproducing its characteristics—its mannerisms, says the biographer—with unerring art.

The English rendering, despite the painfully literal translation of the title and an unexpected lapse here and there (such as 'internal corridor'), is remarkably good. In a comparison with the original, the peculiarly happy choice of word or phrase will give keen pleasure as well as a valuable lesson to those interested in the much attempted but too little studied art of translation.

Is not the faultless obedience of a saint rather obscured by the statement that 'John offered increasingly direct opposition to Doria's policy'? The French has '*s'opposer de plus en plus nettement aux tendances de Doria.*'

M.B.

SANCTIONS : A FRIVOLITY. By Ronald Knox. Pp. 265.

THE SPIRIT OF CATHOLICISM. By Karl Adam. Pp. 270.

PLATO'S BRITANNIA. By Douglas Woodruffe. Pp. 204.

(London : Sheed & Ward. The Ark Library, 1932 ; 3/6 each).

Three books well worth salvaging from the flood of ink and wood-pulp. The conversation of Fr. Knox's house-party is still fresh, the problems still very much to the point. Entertaining—and a capital introduction to a Catholic philosophy of life.

Prof. Adam's lectures, with a certain gracious ponderousness, present the idea of the Church in its religious depth and strength, combating an empty institutionalism. A noble book—and one that has already done incalculable good.

Mr. Woodruff's Socratic view of present-day England reflects the wise and critical judgment of the original. The fun is his own—but made natural by the subject.

T.G.

THE CONSCRIPTION OF A PEOPLE. By the Duchess of Atholl, M.P. (Phillip Allan ; 7/6.)

REPORT ON RUSSIAN TIMBER CAMPS. By Sir Alan Pim and Edward Bateson. (Ernest Benn ; 2/6.)

Clearly, unemotionally and concisely the Duchess of Atholl gives a general survey of the position of labour under communism, and refutes the view that the Workers' and Peasants' Republic is actually the worker's and peasant's Paradise. Well aware of the futility of a trip to Russia for anyone un-

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acquainted with the language and the previous conditions of the country, the author made an exhaustive study of the Soviet documents relative to the labour legislation in the U.S.S.R. The Socialist Press of this country attempted to discredit the book by casting a doubt upon the accuracy of the translations used by the Duchess. Yet, as the principal documents quoted are contained in the publication of H.M.'s Government and of the International Labour Office of the League of Nations, it is scarcely possible to suspect these bodies of deliberate mis-translation.

From the outset the group of men who govern Russia realised that a Communist State had no chance of survival in a capitalist world, therefore a world-Revolution on the Russian model was their only hope. They set to work with the object of undermining the existing state of things, and in every country it was their hand which was behind all strikes and every kind of labour unrest of recent years. But however troublesome for the neighbour, this policy proved insufficient to promote Revolution, and it is this realisation which is the cause of the Five Year Plan, the 'offensive of the proletariat of the world against Capitalism tending to undermine capitalist stabilisation the great plan of World-Revolution,' to quote G. Grinko, one of its authors. And on the altar of this new Moloch, the Five Year Plan, the hapless Russian people are being sacrificed with a ruthlessness and thoroughness unparalleled in history. The object of the plan is to flood the world with goods and raw materials at prices far beneath any current prices on the World Market. This, as we are already witnessing, disorganises the markets, injures production, deals a death-blow to agriculture and increases unemployment and ensuing hardships. And, argue further the Communist leaders, this will inevitably promote disaffection in the masses, and discontented and hungry masses are a favourable ground for subversive propaganda. Thus all the resources of Russia are strained to the utmost in order to carry out the Five Year Plan which is to herald the advent of World Communism. It has to be clearly realised that the fulfilment of this stupendous plan necessitates the use of forced labour, and the wholesale conscription and enslavement of a people.

Compulsory labour is not an innovation in Soviet Russia. In 1918, article 3 of her Constitution decreed that 'every member of her population may be called upon to perform compulsory labour service,' this principle being embodied in the first Labour Code published in the same year. Subsequent Decrees

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in 1919 and 1920 further encroached upon the freedom of the Soviet citizens. The Code of 1922 claimed the right to call up 'in exceptional cases' citizens of the Soviet Union for 'work in the form of compulsory labour service,' this obligation applying to all men between the ages of 18 and 45, and all women between 18 and 40. Amongst the exempted cases are 'women for eight weeks before and after confinement,' *i.e.*, only in the last weeks of pregnancy were women exempted from compulsory labour.

The inauguration of the Five Year Plan in 1928 was fiercely opposed by the Russian peasants. It resulted in the outlawing, deportation and almost wiping out of a whole class of 'kulaki,' or wealthier peasants, in fact of all those who actively opposed the establishment of collective farms. An estimate based on pronouncements of certain Soviet leaders gives the number of such offenders deprived of the right to exist at some five millions. The centralisation of all supplies in the hands of the Government became a fearful weapon of oppression. Food being rationed, it sufficed to deprive any recalcitrants of food-cards to condemn them and their families to starvation, as the purchase of food on the free markets, where prices are fantastically high, is beyond the means of the vast masses of Russians.

The progress of the Plan demanded export of timber on an unprecedented scale. The book gives us much documented information as to forced labour in the timber camps of North Russia and Siberia, where even women and children of twelve are employed. Here the Duchess of Atholl's book is a useful supplement to the *Report on Russian Timber Camps*, published under the auspices of the Anti-Slavery and Aborigines Protection Society, and based on the examination by an impartial Commission of men who had escaped from certain timber camps. The Society's well-known work and the care with which each statement was examined, render the findings of the Report all the more valuable.

It would be too long to give an account of all the decrees and circulars of the last three years. Class after class, profession after profession, were all registered for government work. By a Decree of December 8th, 1930, women were to be employed in such industries in which they had hitherto never worked. Gradually the one hundred and sixty millions of Russia, deprived of their religion, of any ethical standard, of their homes, property, of family life, are sinking to the level of soulless animals with no thought and no interest beyond their material needs and appetites, and this spiritual and moral

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murder of a people is a deliberate policy. The Communist leaders know that their tyranny has no chance of survival in a country of free citizens.

O.B.

A HISTORY OF ENGLAND. Vol. IV. By Hilaire Belloc. (London: Methuen, 1931; pp. 457; 15/-.)

The fourth volume of Mr. Belloc's History is concerned with the years 1525-1612, the crucial period of the Reformation. In its pages the 'majestic lord who broke the bonds of Rome' appears as a blustering, emotional, but essentially weak man, the prey of his appetites, and in his later years, of venereal disease. Elizabeth fares no better than her father: she is, for the most part, under the control of Cecil, to whose political skill and good fortune the success of the Reformation is mainly due. The collapse of the Church is followed by that of the Crown, and the 'deserving noblemen' and wealthy merchants are left supreme on the stage, to the great disadvantage of the common folk. 'Do ye not know,' as one of them said to his tenants, 'that the King's Grace hath put down all the houses of monks, friars and nuns? Therefore, now is the time come that we gentlemen will pull down the houses of such poor knaves as ye be.'

Besides one or two tiresome misprints, there are certain faults which, while they do not seriously affect the value of what Mr. Belloc has to say, are, nevertheless, extremely irritating. In company with Professor Pollard, Mr. Belloc has allowed himself to be misled by the old legend of the base origin of the Tudors. In point of fact, the Tudors of Penmynydd were a respectable family of typical Anglesey squires with a long pedigree and a short purse. They took part—and a prominent part—in the politics of North Wales for at least a century before Owen Tudor.

Sufficient emphasis is not laid on the early promise and popularity of Henry VIII, a fact of some importance. It is not entirely accurate to say that the Bull *Regnans in Excelsis* was 'a complete fiasco.' It was of great importance that Rome had at last after ten years given its decision. The Bull stiffened the Catholic resistance all over the North and made possible the limited success of the Jesuits.

In the main, however, what Mr. Belloc has to say is true enough, and he stands almost alone among the present day writers in his ability to write history which at the same time is history. It is a combination which will give him a permanent place among English historians.

T. C-E.