

film actress with whom he falls in love so improbably—‘Just look into yourself and understand how you’re resisting the movement of things.’

It would be unfair to compare *The Bishop's Confession* with Bernanos's *Curé de Campagne*, for Mr. Shearman has the harder task. The only tradition that can safeguard the bishop is an elaborate convention; he has not come to that cosmic sense of a shared suffering, of a world broken and yet redeemed, which lies deep beneath the curé even in his agony. This is not to say that Mr. Shearman has failed. His novel is memorable; but perhaps its terms of reference are not ultimate ones. But it is sensitive, plainly written, with an awareness in recollection that one does not often find.

X.

NOTICES

THE TRANSITION FROM WAR TO PEACE. By A. C. Pigou.

BRITAIN'S FUTURE POPULATION. By R. F. Harrod. (Oxford University Press; 6d. each.)

These pamphlets are numbers H.3 and H.4 of the Oxford Series On Home Affairs. The former deals with the problems that will arise when the war machine goes into reverse gear. The prospect of the return to peace-time production and peace-time employment (or its opposite) are discussed, and the author ends on an optimistic note, believing that relative prosperity may be maintained on the foundations of our previous economic strength. The second pamphlet is impressive chiefly by reason of the emphasis it lays on the ugly facts of our national lack of reproductiveness, the birth and death rate ratio and the truth that a shrinking community grows poorer not richer. The remedies proposed by the author, however, do not impress us sufficiently to assuage our alarm. Both pamphlets have the virtue of brevity.

J. F. T. PRINCE.

VICTOR HUGO ET LES ILLUMINES DE SON TEMPS. Par Auguste Viatte. (Editions de l'arbre; \$1.50.)

This book requires more than one reading. Under stress of war a second reading is impossible since a second reading entails a quietude unhappily impossible to-day. For the hundred French students who have heard Cagliostro have ten heard of the Abbé Constant of *La Dernière Incarnation*? Have ten heard of Charles Fourier, of Henri Delaage, and of the school of Hoëné Wronski? Yet would *Contemplations* have been written but for that strange background of Revolution and illuminism that was Literary France in mid-nineteenth century?

G.A.F.

THE FIRST MONKS AND NUNS. By Aloysius Roche. (Burns Oates; 7s. 6d.)

In a few pages Fr. Roche gives us an account of a vast period of history. He uses his great gift of writing history not only in a way that makes it readable to a person who has little or no knowledge of the period in question, but also making that period of history live again for him. Without destroying our sense of time, we find ourselves in the desert observing the Fathers of Monasticism living their solitary lives and gradually gathering around them followers who are to form their first communities. We are shown how from these first communities springs religious life as we know it to-day. After reading this book we must be left with a desire to know more of these giants of monasticism to whom our civilisation owes so much.

B.P.

LE DÉSERT DES LACS. By Jacques Sauriol. (Éditions de l'Arbre, Montréal; \$1.00.)

Detective stories, of whatever nationality, are apt to have some family likenesses. Gérôme Beaudé is tracking down train wreckers in French Canada. The scene, the people and their priests, and their lives are vigorously sketched, and will be unfamiliar to most English readers. But when we learn that Gérôme is 'habitué et endurci à l'incompétence classique des limiers officiels' and that 'la police locale suivait ses travaux sans bienveillance,' we feel on not unfamiliar ground. Nor when he discovers, rather later than this reader, . . . but that secret had better be kept. For those whose French is of the academic kind the language will be difficult; though we can all translate at least part of 'O.K., je vas y passer.'

A.E.H.S.

FRANCE'S UNCENSORED PRESS (*Volontaire*, 9d.) gives extracts from the underground newspapers of present-day France. A superb montage design on the cover epitomises the valiant courage of thousands of Frenchmen who have remained where, after all, they belong—in France. THE VOICE OF THE PEOPLE (9d.) is a further selection, from the same series, covering the period from November, 1942, to March, 1943.

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