

How much of this book, one must ask, is the last cartridge—and how splendidly it bangs!—of Edwardian liberalism, and how much does it display the shape of things to come? Twenty-five years from now, when the book is taken from the shelf by an intelligent young man, will the author's attitude to religion evoke a stifled yawn or a start of recognition? For what is both important and fascinating is precisely Professor Toynbee's attitude to religion. The book is not only an interpretation of religion from the standpoint of a gifted historian. It is much more: it is an intensely personal drama played against the backcloth of universal history. Hence its importance.

T. CHARLES EDWARDS

THE EARLY CHURCH: HISTORICAL AND THEOLOGICAL STUDIES. By Oscar Cullman. (S.C.M. Press; 25s.)

Dr Cullman's work has always been marked by three rare qualities: strong sanity, exact scholarship and the spirit of Christian charity. Any attempt by him to write the history of the early Church would be of exceptional interest. Unfortunately the title of this volume is slightly misleading. It consists of papers already published, barely linked together and of unequal value. They include a study on the origins of the Christmas feast which is an admirable example of *vulgarisation* in the good French sense of the term. An article on early Christianity and civilization is doomed to fail through lack of space—only fourteen pages are allotted to it, and there is no attempt to define civilization or to allow for regional or social differentiation among early Christians. There is a particularly stimulating essay on the meaning of '*regnum Christi*' which contains a convincing interpretation of the meaning of *exousia*. It includes two articles which will be of vital importance for any study of the development of Dr Cullman's thought: his 'Necessity and Function of Higher Criticism', first printed in 1949, and 'The Tradition', written three years ago, in which he makes his answer to P. Daniélou with consistent and characteristic courtesy. Even if the present volume does not add very greatly to our knowledge of the history of the early Church, it is an invaluable source for the history of early Cullman.

GERVASE MATHEW, O.P.

BYZANTIUM AND ISTANBUL. By Robert Liddell. (Cape; 25s.)

Mr Robert Liddell has written the best of all travel books on Aegean Greece perhaps partly because he cared for it so much. If now he fails with Constantinople it is perhaps primarily because he so much dislikes it.