

portrait of a woman's soul. His book is marred by those *longueurs* of analogy and commentary which seem endemic to French Catholic novelists and which perhaps explains why Charles Morgan is the most admired of English novelists in France. I. F.

INTRODUCTION TO CONTEMPORARY CIVILIZATION IN THE WEST. A Source Book, Vol. I, and accompanying Manual. (Columbia University Press; Cumberlege; 33s. 6d.)

From America comes this characteristically solid and even sumptuous 'volume of reading' prepared by the 'contemporary civilization staff' of Columbia University. It contains translations of documents to illustrate 'the making of contemporary civilization through the ideas and institutions which helped to make it'. The accompanying 'manual' (a 'fascicle' of 150 pp.) gives a sketch of European history, especially economic and social history, from the break-up of the Roman Empire to the end of the eighteenth century. The 'source book' itself is designed to introduce young Americans to the ideas or reflexions of the mind of Europe at different stages of this history; and here too the main emphasis falls on economic and political thought, with specimens of the moral philosophies implied thereby and an interest in the recurrent 'conflict' of faith and reason or tradition and criticism.

The outlook is rationalist or secularist: Christ is 'The Jewish Jesus of Nazareth'. No particular bias, however, appears in the field of politics and economics; and the comments on Christian institutions (monasticism for instance) are mostly fair. There are a few errors: St Bonaventure did not 'always condemn Aristotle'; and St Thomas's conception of Eternal Law has got out of perspective—but this is a fault due, probably, to the radically untheological and unmetaphysical standpoint of presentation. Everything is seen under a this-worldly and especially an institutional, political aspect.

To those who can cope with its point of view this compilation has much to offer. The translations are authoritative. The print is pleasant to read. K. F.

#### IN BRIEF

Those who missed Fr Gerald Vann's *Saint Thomas Aquinas* on its first appearance in 1940 will be glad to possess the reprint issued by Messrs. J. H. Dent at 7s. 6d. Douglas Organ publishes a useful re-issue of Dr. J. C. Heenan's *Priest and Penitent*, a popular discussion of the sacrament of Penance. From the same publisher comes a novel, *The End*, by Hugh Venning (9s. 6d.), set in the year 2045, and described in the blurb as 'the most moving, penetrating shot into the future ever published'. Peter Lunn's *Evil in High Places* (Methuen, 9s. 6d.) is a well-devised thriller, in which a triple murder is committed against the background of a Swiss skiing hotel. The latest 'Contact' Book, *Grand Perspective* (5s.) has articles by Harold Nicolson, Clive Bell, Peter Quennell on such diverse subjects as the future of British Industry, Mayfair, Redbrick University, and Mass. Observation on Religion.