

## NOTICES

THE MURDER OF A NATION. By G. M. Godden. (Burns Oates; 2s. 6d.).

Alongside the physical attack on Polish Jews, an inhuman warfare which may easily be unparalleled in human history, there is a less spectacular but no less inhuman campaign against the Catholic culture in Poland. The mind can visualise to some extent the dire plight of Polish Jewry because the mind can translate human values into the values of a cattle market, and Poland to-day is the abattoir of Europe. The mind is stunned by that concept. But the moral and intellectual degradation of a people is less easy to visualise. Yet is it more fearful. In this little booklet the author helps us to see the crucifixion of Poland, a crucifixion of soul that has followed a scourging of spirit. Not a book for the complacent.

G.A.F.

THIS WAR IS THE PASSION. By Caryll Houslander. (Sheed & Ward; 3s. 6d.).

In a spirit of unqualified recommendation we notice the publication ensemble of some of Miss Houslander's articles in *The Grail* magazine. They are simply written, and like the Gospel will be found to be a source of life to all classes. The value of this book lies in its nearness in word and spirit to its own source. The Death of Jesus Christ, his life in men, the unity of men in him, their daily dying and living in companionship with him and one another—these are the central thoughts of the book. They supply a need of the day; they are expanded, with a little too much repetition, and applied with experienced insight. For the daily meditation of the layman and the religious this book may well serve as the best companion to the Gospel text that the war years have so far given.

P.P.F.

THE CATHOLIC VIEW OF THE BEVERIDGE PLAN. By Lewis Watt, S.J. (C.S.G.; 3d.).

Two articles well worth reprinting from the *Clergy Review* for wider circulation. They consist of a clear analysis of the famous Report and its plan of a minimum for all who are prevented from working, followed by an estimation of its value in the light of Catholic principles. Fr. Watt finds nothing therein which is repugnant to these principles, but counsels full discussion of each separate proposal on its merits before committing the country to the Plan as a whole.

J.F.

WORLD ECONOMIC SURVEY, 1941/42. League of Nations. (Allen & Unwin; 10s.).

The Economic, Financial and Transit Department continue to publish their invaluable summary of the economic situation, price movements, finance and banking and international trade. This latest edition which covers up to October, 1942, is no exception to the general run of previous years, except that information from all the countries at war is somewhat reduced. Nevertheless, despite the difficulties under which the compilers must have worked, they have produced an astonishingly complete account of most countries' economies.

J.F.

THE MONASTIC IDEAL: Considerations arising from the Jubilee of the Mirfield Community. By W. J. Sparrow Simpson. (Church Literature Association; 1s. 3d.).

Dr. Sparrow Simpson understands and admires the religious life, for which this short study is frankly propaganda. The value of his book, especially for those not of the Anglican communion, would have been increased by an account of the daily life of the Community of the Resurrection, and of the particular monastic tradition which they follow.

L.T.

SUZANNE ET LES JEUNES GENS. Par Georges Duhamel. (Editions de l'Arbre; \$1.25.)

The ninth volume of the Pasquier Chronicle, the beginning of the story of the daughter of Dr. Raymond Pasquier, who renounces the gentle peace of a cultured household which has received her, and the delicate attention of its young men, for her art as an actress.

R.N.

THE PSYCHOLOGY OF CHARACTER. By Rudolf Allers. (Sheed and Ward; 3s. 6d.)

The first cheap edition of this invaluable work cost one shilling. It is impossible to expect the same standards in war-time, and this otherwise identical edition (including the synopsisized first chapter) costs another half-crown. But it is still cheap at the price and no parent, teacher or priest should grumble at giving this small amount of silver for a book that will be so profound a help to them. It was reviewed in BLACKFRIARS, June, 1931.

MESSAGE A DE JEUNES ANGLAISES. Par André David. (Editions de l'Arbre; \$1.25.)

André David, the founder of the Conférences des Ambassadeurs, here tells his English nieces and their mother what Europe owes to

England and her sister-nations. Guizot said that England is the bulwark of liberty and of human dignity. M. David goes further and sees her as the saviour of Christian civilisation. It is rather embarrassing to find ourselves painted in such shining colours, to see how we appear from the outside. This book will show Frenchmen something of the aims and sacrifices of Britain, and it will show us some of our responsibilities to Europe.

B.D.B.

#### ART EXHIBITIONS

### RECORDING BRITAIN

This record by artists of the changing face of the country, especially of 'threatened spots before it is too late,' was shown at the National Gallery, four local centres and seven travelling exhibitions. It is the property of the Pilgrim Trust, and will be housed in the Victoria and Albert Museum, and will be available on loan to public galleries. It is intended to 'arouse the interest of the public in their magnificent heritage of beauty which is being allowed to run to waste.'

Of about two hundred pictures shown at the National Gallery (in August), while some are mere statements, valuable as records but dull and uninspired, others are outstanding for their magnificently imaginative approach; notable the work of Ruskin Spears and G. W. Hooper, which is alive and vigorous; the colour of Malvina Cheek's 'Lime Kilns'; the flowing water colours of Eva Kirk; and especially the records of John Piper and Thomas Hennell, whose work is always imaginatively conceived. Rosemary and Clifford Ellis, Albert Piles, Michael Rothenstein, and Michael Eldridge all contribute distinguished work.

M. CALDIN.

## BLACKFRIARS

(with which is incorporated *The Catholic Review*).

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