

BLACKFRIARS

THE TRAGEDY OF A NATION. By Prince Hubertus Loewenstein.
(Faber ; 7/6.)

An indictment of the Third Reich by way of an indictment of the Republic. We must remember that the German tribes were not trained to democracy and the Republic failed to do anything to educate them : it remained intellectual, aloof, abstract ; it created no symbols to concentrate the the enthusiasm and idealism of the nation. Further, it never really created a Revolution : from the first it made every effort not to offend the stalwarts of the old regime, and hence it never incorporated the people. It spurned its most important and faithful ally, the Reichsbanner, with the result that it was helpless before the Nazi terror. The book contains much that is vivid and dramatic, for the Prince played a desperate part in the events of the last days of the Republic, and it is animated with the hope that the thousands now exiled from the Fatherland may, when the dark days are over, contribute to make Germany a true democracy, giving its rich contribution to the common good of Europe. That is the hope : but there is a fear also—that Communism of which the Nazis made a bogey may under their vicious rule become a reality. And the author does not fail to note, rightly we think, that the root of the whole evil was the Treaty of Versailles when the lust of the victors ruined a great people.

The Prince is a Catholic and admits to a certain dismay when he learnt that a type like Von Papen was to be the accredited agent to the Spiritual Power ; but the sermons of Cardinal Faulhaber renewed his confidence that the Church would not fail to resist wickedness in high places.

The translation is good except for the translator's irritating habit of using the perfect for the preterite and thus giving the verb a present instead of a past meaning.

A.M.

CHRISTIANITY AND INTERNATIONALISM. By John Nibb. (Elliot Stock ; 3/6.)

This book of 135 pages has been indifferently produced, and as far as that goes is expensive at 3/6. Mr. Nibb pleads for a judicial mentality and an 'internationalism of sanity.' He has much to say that we should take to heart, though he says it in the new journalese (by Fascism out of Buchmanism), and takes a somewhat airy view of the possibilities of change in international procedure. This pacifist sincerity is something new from a Catholic.

H.C.T.