

and unexpected glimpses of humility and deference reveal a character different from the public person.

*In a Great Tradition* is charmingly written, with humour and distinction of style. It is itself a monument to the qualities that made the Abbess of Stanbrook so greatly respected and loved.

A.I.

MEMORY TO MEMORY. By Sir Arnold Lunn. (Hollis and Carter; 21s.)

Sir Arnold Lunn has many reputations, and any book he writes must reflect the variety of his experience as alpinist, religious controversialist and as the son of his father. His latest book of memoirs, agreeably desultory in design, fills in some gaps in the earlier autobiographies and recalls events and arguments that may seem dated now but which, in Sir Arnold's vigorous account, can still command the interest of those who have lived through them. Sir Arnold Lunn is unrepentant for the positions he adopted on such issues as the Spanish War, and his fierce suspicions of secular optimism remain unabated. He has many good stories, especially of his father and his circle, and such originals as Lord Montgomery provide amusing descriptions. The great merit of this book is its honesty. However much Sir Arnold Lunn may rage or bluster, he remains firmly convinced of the rights of the human conscience. He can be generous to an adversary, charitable of attitude while absolutely certain that his own standpoint is unassailable. He has done much good for many causes and persons, and not least in writing down so directly and disarmingly his hopes and fears, his hates and loves—himself, in fact.

A.I.

LIVES AND LEGENDS OF THE GEORGIAN SAINTS. By David Marshall Lang, M.A., PH.D. (Allen and Unwin; 13s. 6d.)

There can be few ancient Christian lands whose saints are less known in the West than those of Iberia, now the Socialist Soviet Republic of Georgia, between the Black Sea and the Caspian. The traditional apostle of this people, St Nino, is mentioned in the Roman Martyrology on December 15, under the designation of 'Christiana ancilla', and M. and O. Wardrop translated her Life into English half a century ago for the Clarendon Press series *Studia Biblica et Ecclesiastica*; St John the Hagiorite and his son St Euthymius the Enlightener are familiar to those interested in the history of Mount Athos: but the rest are hardly even names.

Dr D. M. Lang has now provided an excellent introduction to the

subject, translating selections from the best available texts, with brief particulars of the historical background and the nature of the sources. As well as the saints named above, he deals with certain martyrs, the Children of Kola, the princess St Shushanik, St Eustace the Cobbler, St Abo of Tiflis, and Queen Ketevan, cruelly put to death by the Persian Shah 'Abbas in 1624; with a forerunner of St Francis of Assisi, St David of Garesja, and the monastic restorer St Gregory of Khandzta; and with Peter the Iberian, a holy ascetic among the monophysites.

The book forms one of the series of Ethical and Religious Classics of East and West, but its value is perhaps less strictly religious and ascetical than historical and hagiographic. In any case it is very readable as well as scholarly, and will be welcomed by the serious general reader no less than by the student.

D.A.

PAPA MARRIED A MORMON. By J. D. Fitzgerald. (W. H. Allen; 15s.)

It would be no surprise if this biography of Tom and Tena Fitzgerald is filmed or made into a musical play. The pages and covers of a book are too slight to contain such a vigorous, breath-taking story. Right from the start the reader gallops on, into the Wild West. It reads like a novel, a magnificent Western, covered wagons, Indians, saloons, dance-hall girls, gunmen quick on the draw, and yet it is all true. Papa Fitzgerald, a Catholic, certainly did marry a Mormon, not once but four times, once civilly after a dramatic elopement with posses chasing the runaways, then civilly again when the bride came of age a week later, next a secret Mormon wedding and finally a Catholic marriage.

Papa finds himself in Mormon territory because of a promise to his dying mother to seek out his wild brother Will who had left home and made for the Golden West. He falls in love at first sight with a good young woman, Tena Neilsen, a Mormon of Anglo-Danish parentage. There is opposition to the marriage but the couple elope and, in spite of religious difficulties, live happily ever after, taking their share in the building of the new state of Utah.

The author has succeeded beyond criticism in evoking the Wild West. He writes of his pioneering parents with filial affection and objectivity. He describes graphically, with the pen of an accomplished writer, the life of the pioneers, with all the extraordinary mixture of types. The only disadvantage of this book is that it is so unusual, so fresh and so gripping that the reader will simply devour it and reach the end all too soon.

KIERAN MULVEY, O.P.