

between a Frenchman and an Arab, both university lecturers, to expound their respective points of view before an audience of seminary students in the North of England. These lecturers had known each other and conversed daily at High Table for months; but it was obvious that only now, when the need was pressing to bring habitually inarticulate feelings to the surface, did either of them really consider the separateness and the value of the other's views. This bringing together in understanding must be the beginning of the process, and not its end.

NOTICES

PORTRAIT OF A PARISH PRIEST, by Lancelot C. Sheppard (Burns Oates, 18s.), is much more than a re-statement of the already well-known life of St John Vianney, Curé d'Ars. And it is much more than a biography of a saint in the conventional style. Mr Sheppard presents a fresh, stimulating, sometimes provocative, appreciation of the humble, and so engaging, parish priest of Ars.

PRINCIPLES AND PERSUASIONS (Eyre and Spottiswoode, 21s.) is a collection of literary essays by Anthony West, which, despite the permanence of a book, preserves the glossy origins of the *New Yorker*. Mr West's principles are often prejudices: he cares nothing for the statistical calm of academic criticism. But, whether his subject be Hugh Walpole or Reinhold Niebuhr, George Eliot or Winston Churchill, he says what he will, unembarrassed by what the Establishment will think. Negative and destructive he may often be, but never boring.

ENDGAME (Faber, 10s. 6d.) is Samuel Beckett's latest play, first performed in a French version in London. Two helpless men watch and comment on the end of all things—'time was never and time is over, reckoning closed and story ended'. But there is a faint hope in this bleak duologue, and always a wonderful sense of the mystery of words.

THE CIRCLE OF GUILT (Dennis Dobson, 18s.) is a study by Dr Frederic Wertham of a particularly shocking American juvenile murder, committed by a Puerto Rican boy in a New York street-gang fight. Dr Wertham, who was called in to examine the murderer, sees this murder as the symptom of a grave malady in American

society, and his detailed account of the social and racial background provides evidence which courts can scarcely consider.

MADE FOR MAN (Methuen, 15s.) is A. P. Herbert's latest assault on Anglican inconsistencies in the matter of remarrying the divorced. Written as an amusing novel, this is none the less a skilful piece of propaganda, and includes, among other delights, a fascinating account of an imaginary debate in the House of Lords. In a sense, Sir Alan Herbert's target is too easy to hit, and his familiar skill in exploring the jungle of legal oddities finds plenty of opportunities here.

ENGLISH SHORT STORIES OF TODAY (Oxford University Press, 12s. 6d.; school edition, 7s. 6d.) is a second selection made by Dan Davin, including such established contemporaries as Elizabeth Bowen, Graham Greene, Somerset Maugham and Angus Wilson. Most of the stories are more than familiar, but the purpose of the book is obviously to provide schools with representative examples of short-story writing in England today, and in this it certainly succeeds.

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—not us—to make the final judgment on his Pontificate. But whatever that judgment will be, it must needs take into account the impact on the men of his time, as that has been almost unanimously witnessed to in the past few weeks, of a great preacher, priest and pastor who by his personal example unwaveringly reminded the modern world of the need for holiness.

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As this number of **BLACKFRIARS** goes to press before the meeting of the Conclave, it is, anonymously, to the next successor of St Peter, as Bishop of Rome and Vicar of Christ, that the Editor pays his filial and religious homage.