

began, it is said, as a Nationalist, and finding himself outside the charmed circle of the party, constituted himself into another party. This is a brief outline of how parties arise, but perhaps the author is a party man himself. I have seen a letter of Sir Edward's passionately disclaiming religious bigotry as entering into any of his motives. Be this as it may he has traded on the superior sincerity and loyalty of John Redmond and Co., who were seemingly unconscious, as the writer is, of the real nigger in the woodpile, vested interests. What is the use of pointing out how Orange William was the staunch ally of Innocent XI against Louis XIV when it is so plain to see that only in the great ship-building centres is the Orange myth kept alive? And by what artifice? One well known to the legal profession. The wealth of two litigants is to outside observers a sure index of the length of the case, and vice versa.

A doggerel bard, secure in his aloofness from all these gainful shams, wrote before 1914:

If I were very rich and full of taste  
 I should collect—not scores by Humperdinck,  
 Nor Jacobean spoons nor old French paste,  
 Nor Cinemato-plays by Maeterlinck:  
 Nor gems recovered from the wounded years.  
 (How some of them survive I cannot think)  
 One thing alone would suit my mental kink.  
*I should collect Sir Edward Carson's tears.*

JOHN O'CONNOR.

BRITISH SURVEY HANDBOOKS, No. 4, HUNGARY, No. 5, DENMARK.  
 Edited by John Eppstein. (Cambridge University Press;  
 3s. each).

These further issues confirm the excellent impression made by the first volumes of the series (dealing with Belgium, Rumania and Greece), already noticed in this review.

Hungary is a country of which little is known in Great Britain; Denmark, we at least, associate with eggs and bacon and butter—and perhaps the folk high-schools. Both these books really enlighten our ignorance; but that on Hungary (the more complex and difficult subject) succeeds in giving the more living picture of the two. Over one-third of the Denmark volume, 30 pages, is given to events since 1940; this seems too much: the corresponding period in Hungary is adequately disposed of in 13 pages. We could have done with more about Grundtvig's foundations, which are no less characteristic of the Danes than is anti-Nazi sabotage. Again, the writers about Hungary give several pages to the people's religion. (In passing, "Uniates", on p. 59, is an unhappy term: its historical associations are something like "papist" or "Romanist" in England); but the reader looks in vain for anything about Danish religion and Lutheranism in that country, apart from a bare reference. In both books a page of vital statistics and similar information would be welcome. What, for example, is the population of the Faeroe islands?

The editor makes a significant remark. "If," he says, "the writers or compilers have erred from cold impartiality in the direction of sympathy with the common people, they and I have erred deliberately." And he adds, "*Non intratur in veritatem nisi per caritatem.*" Caritas is not always a characteristic of books of this sort, least of all perhaps when they claim a special solicitude for the common people. Mr. Eppstein must be congratulated on his continued achievement.

D.A.

RUSO-POLISH RELATIONS. By Serge Konovalov. (The Cresset Press; 4s.).

"Eastern Poland" is a case in which judgment has been given—if it be suitable to use legal terms in reference to a dispute which has now been resolved by the enforcement of sheer power, without adequate reference to the rights and wishes of the third party, the inhabitants of the territory concerned. In a sense, then, Professor Konovalov's study comes too late; it is deprived of some of its practical value: but its intrinsic usefulness and interest remain.

The book consists of an objective historical survey of the subject over nine hundred years, divided into thirty-six short sections, of which eighteen were written by the late Sir John Maynard, who originally undertook the work. As well as writing the other eighteen sections, Professor Konovalov has added seven appendices by way of documentation and six maps—two or three of which might well have been bigger and therefore clearer. Among the points illuminated are the historical significance of Russia's part in the Polish partitions of 1772-95 (the annexation of "Congress Poland" in 1815 was a very different affair) and the preceding partition of Russian territory by Sweden and Poland at the beginning of the seventeenth century. Here use is made of a very interesting article written by Lord Salisbury (then Lord Robert Cecil) in 1863.

It is a pity that Professor Konovalov does not give more information about the plebiscite conducted by the Soviet authorities in "Eastern Poland" in 1939, for it is a crucial point. Whether Poland's or Russia's claim be justified historically, if it be true that a majority of the inhabitants of the disputed area are closer ethnically (as a majority certainly is culturally) to the Russians than to the Poles, there still remains the question, Which rule, Polish or Russian, would a majority, large or small, of those people prefer to-day? Professor Konovalov does not attempt to answer that question; neither do I; neither, if you are wise, will you. In default of special and intimate knowledge we have no right to claim to answer that question positively: that is the right of the people concerned—and they have not been asked, at any rate in circumstances that beyond doubt provided for a free and unconstrained answer.

D.A.

THE BLACKBIRD OSPO, Stories of Yugo-Slavia. By J. F. Hendry. (Maclellan; 7s. 6d.).

It is not easy to give political problems the colour and shape of