

R E V I E W S

TOWARDS A CHRISTIAN ORDER. By Various Writers. (Eyre and Spottiswoode; 9s.)

THE CHURCHES FACE THE CHALLENGE. By Frank C. Ballard. (Nisbet; 2s. 6d.)

There is great need for men and women to expound and apply the findings of Malvern, to work them out more fully in relation to the actual situation to-day. The ten writers of this collection attempt to do this—some of them justifying principles, others suggesting practice. In the first essay Canon Marriott argues very convincingly that materialism is not enough and that 'the prime duty of the Church is to produce that holiness, that otherness, which alone can rescue the world from its deadly materialism and secularism.' Succeeding writers then consider the Family, Education, Planning, the Land, Money, Property, from this point of view. But at times they speak with uncertain voice, at times they even contradict one another, and the reason would seem to be that there is no unanimity about the future, whether it will be reorganisation or revolution.

The outstanding contribution comes from the Rev. W. G. Peck, who deals freshly with the by now almost hackneyed point of the usurpation of power by money. Quite definitely this will be one of the key points in any new economic order, and with regard to it there can be no compromise. Another uncompromising point should be the integrity of the family, but we find the only episcopal contributor, the Bishop of Chelmsford, saying in the midst of much sound reasoning that 'it would clearly be unjustifiable for the Church to denounce as sin a practice which many honest people are conscientiously convinced is *not* sinful' with regard to one moral problem, and on the same page that 'it is, of course, out of the question that the Christian Church should even consider accommodating its moral standard to this situation' about a second moral problem.

On Education the Headmaster of Rugby writes of the necessity of co-operation between home and school and of the 'foundation of doctrine and worship,' while Mr. Pond provides an uninspired factual survey of educational facilities. Canon Baker and Mr. Trystan (Hundred New Towns) Edwards together provide a good basis for discussion of the revival of agriculture and the balance between town and country. Carried along by Canon Baker's enthusiasm for making Britain a great food-producing country, the reader is somewhat dashed to learn from Mr. Sidney Dark that this is bunkum. But the reader will be dashed at every sentence written by Mr. Dark—the bad wine has been kept to the end of the feast. In thirteen pages he manages to cite twenty-six personalities, to write balderdash about expropriation 'practically without compensation,' and to call the

Guilds 'a very jolly dream, but just a dream.' Yet Miss Ruth Kenyon, a much more able and experienced economist, sociologist and ethicist than Mr. Dark devotes more than a score of pages to showing how they can be a reality. There is far too much apologetic in her treatment and too much history, but she does make her point. And even Dark's common ownership views are so much better argued by Richard Acland, though the latter's argument is vitiated because he does not see that co-operative ownership is an alternative to his dilemma of private or common (i.e. national) ownership. Moreover he tends to believe that technics will produce moral progress.

The conclusions to be drawn? Forward from Malvern, they cry—but some march on to common ownership, while others lag behind. Some go too far, others not far enough, while none of them pays sufficient attention to the political problems involved which are just as important as the economic, as Dr. Oldham points out in the last chapter of his *Real Life is Meeting*.

Mr. Ballard in his booklet has managed to be rather pedestrian, and at times heterodox, while not at all fulfilling his striking title. He even says: 'The sayings of Christ are not to be treated as laws. Difficulties always arise when the Church tries to turn prophetic principles into legal codes that are to be imposed on all and sundry.' This book would have been of value several years ago, but will not do as a commentary on the Five Points from the *Times* letter.

JOHN FITZSIMONS.

PLAN FOR RECONSTRUCTION. By W. H. Hutt. The International Library of Sociology and Social Reconstruction. (Kegan Paul; 18s.)

Professor Hutt opens his work with drafts for three Bills ready for introduction into Parliament. In subsequent chapters he elucidates the Plan behind the Bills, sketching the national requirements for the efficient prosecution of a long total war and describing a way of tackling the transition from war to peace. He finds the chief stumbling-block in what he calls restrictionism, a monstrous offspring of Capitalism and Socialism, afflicting its ill-assorted parents equally. The author plans for the greatest possible flow of goods for consumption, together with guaranteed economic security for capital and labour alike. The book covers practically the whole surface of the field of political and economic operation, and the emphasis is too diffuse (apart from the foregoing thesis) to allow of adequate recapitulation in the space of a short review. One cannot help being struck by the author's optimism; for in envisaging a consciously planned 'system enabling the direction, under continuously tested foresight of all the resources in the community,' he is in fact postulating almost universal goodwill in industry, if not a spirit of Christian resignation on the part of entrepreneurs about to be liquidated. Professor Hutt tells us, again, that 'two and a half years of war