

trative labours saving the vital instrument of British policy, the Navy, from the neglect of his superiors and the irresponsibility of the elected Parliament. One must hope that Mr Bryant will soon provide us with a fourth and final volume of this fascinating biography. Professor Butterfield's book, on the other hand, illustrates a further development of the same political problem, once again a century later, at the very crisis of George III's reign. It is a detailed and absorbing, almost day-to-day account of two years, when the war of American Independence had brought this country to the nadir of political prestige. The king had turned the tables on the Whig aristocracy by outbribing them for the control of Parliament, and was holding this corrupted body bound to the support of Lord North as his amiable but extremely ineffective minister. Crisis succeeded crisis in these years, in America, Ireland, invasion scares, while the Chief Minister appeared incapable of action. The only active instruments of government were again civil servants, Mr Robinson in the Treasury and Mr Jenkinson in the King's closet. It was one of the ironies of history that the son of the latter, as Lord Liverpool, became, in the course of time, Prime Minister for fifteen years, 1812-1827. In face of this calamitous situation Professor Butterfield traces the emergence and subsidies of a movement which looked for a time as if it would provide England with a new and representative revolutionary assembly under the auspices of the Yorkshire Association. This country anticipated the French National Assembly by nearly ten years. As it was, the instinctive political moderation of the English came to the rescue and Parliamentary reform was postponed for fifty years, mainly because of the rise of the younger William Pitt, with his genius for administration and the popular support his name gave him, and because of the untempting example which the French Revolution provided of the excesses of popular demagogy.

These three works are valuable examples of detailed historical writing for general reading, objective, balanced and based on immense study of original documents. They are also valuable as a check on generalised political theories, for they show the extreme difficulty of applying moral principles to the fascinating and dangerous task of ruling the human family.

PAUL FOSTER, O.F.

THE SCOTS HOUSEHOLD IN THE EIGHTEENTH CENTURY. By Marion Lochhead. (Edinburgh, The Moray Press; 25s.)

This book in some way invites severe criticism, and has already received it from some reviewers. The title is an inaccurate indication of the contents, the method of reference—when references are given—is inadequate, and it would be possible to list sources of relevant material which have been overlooked. Yet to concentrate on these

points would be to give an unfair account of one of the most fascinating books which have appeared in recent years. Miss Lochhead has produced a tapestry of the eighteenth century which no one who is interested in the period, whether from an English or a Scottish point of view, will fail to enjoy. However defective her apparatus, there can be no doubt that her knowledge of the period is considerable; she has read widely, with an understanding of differing aspects of eighteenth-century life, and uses her material carefully. And she writes with a lively, readable style. Whether treating of elderflower-fritters and cowslip pudding, or ministers or books or Paisley muslin, her pages are informative and at the same time awaken an appetite for further study. Some things she treats of are usually passed over in silence, and Scottish Catholics in particular must be grateful to her for what is perhaps the most sympathetic chapter ever devoted by a non-Catholic Scottish historian to their history.

ANTHONY ROSS, O.P.

THE SPANIARDS IN THEIR HISTORY. By Ramón Menéndez Pidal, Translated by Walter Starkie. (Hollis and Carter; 16s.)

This brilliant survey of Spanish history is indispensable to all students of Spain, indeed, to all students of history, since a concept of Spain is indispensable for an understanding of history. The great patriarch of Spanish scholarship, Professor Ramón Menéndez Pidal, carries us through two thousand years of Spanish history on a basis of psychological interpretation—true, a minimal basis of psychology, but this is wise in view of the great length of time and the number of problems with which he has to deal. His basic concept of Spanish psychology is that of austerity, but other qualities are invoked from time to time. From the Spanish point of view (and thus from our point of view as Europeans rather than historians) the importance of this book is the writer's insistence (with all the weight of his authority as a scholar) on the need for the Spaniards of both sides to heal the breach between them. If all will study the past impartially and learn from it the good qualities the Spanish spirit has evinced in their great history, they may learn better to co-operate now for the future. Like Unamuno, they must become conscious of the two Spaniards each carries within his breast: the traditionalist and the liberal. The next step is to fuse the two into one and, without forsaking religion, they must extend the concern of the modern for social justice. Spain may again attain to influence and usefulness in the world if this fusion can be achieved; what that usefulness and influence can be may be gleaned from the splendid history that the author passes in review before us.

The first half of the book consists of a magnificent study by the translator, Professor Starkie (who went from the Chair of Spanish at