

THE MEDITERRANEAN IN POLITICS. By Elizabeth Monroe. (Oxford University Press : Milford. 2nd Edition ; 10s.)

Moral science is not autonomous, and just as the understanding of personal morality requires some knowledge of physiology and psychology so judgment as to the claims and duties of nations among themselves must be well grounded on history and geography, the means of production, communication, markets, local customs and religion. Public opinion in the English speaking countries has a habit of deciding the rights and wrongs of an international situation with unequal information as to its background. The slapdash ethics and bungled policies that resulted in the years between the wars were neither virtuous nor successful. For if politics should be directed by morals, then no less certainly do morals need the discipline of politics. There is no social morality without political prudence ; there can be no political prudence without good counsel conducted in a severely non-moral spirit.

The Mediterranean is a case in point. Here there are problems which have been only shelved, or censored out of sight, for the time being. If, as seems likely, public opinion in Great Britain and the United States is going to have great power in shaping the future there, then all the greater is the need for preliminary instruction.

The reviewer knows of no better introduction than this book, first published just before the war, now appearing in its second edition. It has worn well. Unlike many other contemporary productions, it was not thrown together to meet a passing fashion. Though shorter and more popular in style, it has something of the same permanence as Lord Hailey's work on Africa.

Here are the main facts, set out drily—yet not without a sparkle of wit, objectively, and in good order, that must govern any settlement in the Mediterranean. Here, for instance, can be seen how deeply different are conditions in Morocco, Algeria and Tunisia : how Cyprus counters Rhodes, not only strategically, but also when the Atlantic Charter comes to be applied : the pros and cons of Italian colonizing in Libya. The account moves easily and is unburdened by the technicalities and apparatus that have gone to its making. It can be thoroughly recommended for its information, balance, and good sense.

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R.N.

FOR HILAIRE BELLOC. Essays in honour of his 72nd birthday. (Sheed and Ward ; 9s.)

Mr. Woodruff has gathered together an imposing band to pay honour to England's greatest modern essayist, and the contributions are all of the high standard we associate with their authors. In fact it is hardly fair to expect a reviewer to single out the best where everything is so good. The reader who is minded to do so

must decide for himself. But all will immediately be struck by the brilliance of Monsignor Knox in *The man who tried to convert the Pope*, and enchanted to find that both the man and his attempt are historical facts. Bishop Mathew in *The Library at Naworth* shows great skill in painting in words a telling portrait of the Caroline nobleman, Sir William Howard, a picture that explains much in the too dim light that still shrouds the lives of unobtrusive but important figures in the story of English Catholicism in the early seventeenth century. His brother, Father Gervase Mathew, goes back to a far more distant period in his close study of 'a group of manuscripts suggesting an unexpected link between the twelfth century Byzantine court in its effortless sophistication and the early years of the University (of Oxford) with the quick clamour of its city schools.'

In *The piety of Cicely, Duchess of York*, C. A. J. Armstrong helps us to a better understanding of Catholic England fifty years before the dawn of disaster. An essay that will gladden the hearts of all lovers of English literature is *The meaning of Anthony Trollope* by Christopher Hollis, a superb piece of writing. The volume closes with two important historical papers, *The Pre-Conquest Saints of Canterbury*, by W. A. Pantin, and *The Myth of Arthur* by David Jones, on both of which we should like to dwell did not economy of space forbid us.

WALTER GUMBLEY, O.P.

PONTIFICAL CEREMONIES. By Pierce Ahearne, D.D., B.C.L., and Michael Lane, S.T.L., B.A. (Burns Oates; 15s.)

This book is a concise and useful guide to those pontifical ceremonies that are more likely to be met with occasionally in the life of an ordinary parish. Besides High and Requiem Mass, celebrated by the Bishop or in his presence, and the Bishop's Low Mass, the pontifical form of the Holy Week Offices and that for the Feast of the Purification are described; then follows the rite of Episcopal Visitation, Confirmation, and Pontifical Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. Four pontifical blessings are finally given, including the beautiful but somewhat rare rite for the blessing of bells. For the more complicated ceremonies the authors give first a summary description of the whole rite, and then an account of the part to be played by each separate minister. This arrangement saves time in the preparation of the ceremony, and helps each participant to see his own function as a part of the whole action.

A reading of this work, and any experience of episcopal ceremonies in smaller churches, makes one wish for a simplification of some of the commoner pontifical functions—Pontifical High Mass especially. The rubrics envisage a large cathedral sanctuary with no limit to the number of servers, and with the chapter in attendance too. There is no provision for the small parish church which is