

BLACKFRIARS

troubles. It may remind the reader that there is one Institution seeking, not to constrain or mock at the world's insanity, but to cleanse and fortify its innumerable unhappy cells.

P.D.F.

STUDIES IN THE CATHOLIC SOCIAL MOVEMENT. By Henry Somerville, M.A. (Burns, Oates & Washbourne; 3/6.)

Mr. Somerville renders a needed service by sketching the history of Catholic social thought and action in the countries of North-Western and Central Europe from the beginnings of the last century until the present day. The revelation of the extent and force of the movement will come as a surprise to many in this country. The writer has unfortunately been compelled to confine his study to certain geographical limits and to select his material to bring it into a small compass, but he has selected well and his critical interpretation of personalities and events does not obtrude on the objectivity of his narration. Another merit of his work lies in the fact that he is not content to view Catholic enterprises in isolation, but shows them in relation to other contemporaneous social and economic tendencies. An introduction gives an adequate statement of the principles underlying Catholic social action, and a detailed table of contents and a seven-page index make the work as valuable for reference as it is interesting to read. The preface is a hasty postscript interpreting events in Germany since February with a prematurity and bias which hardly accord with the balance which characterises the rest of the book. It is to be hoped that Mr. Somerville will complete his work with a study of corresponding movements in Italy, Spain, England and elsewhere.

V.W.

GERMAN CATHOLIC REVIEWS

The chief preoccupation of German Catholic reviews is, inevitably, with the multitudinous problems of re-adjustment and policy occasioned by the National Revolution. This is not a local topic which we can afford to view with indifference. Not only does the bond of prayerful understanding and sympathy which should unite all members of the Body of Christ compel us to watch closely the response which German Catholicism is making to the demands which the triumph of National-Socialism imposes upon it, but the universal breakdown of the liberal-democratic order and the increasing power of Fascist ideals in other countries force us to recognize that many of the problems which confront German Catholics to-day may to-morrow be our own. Moreover it is no exaggeration to say that the future of Germany, and with it the future and peace of the civilized world,