

appear to have been dealt with sketchily. But the book is a pleasing and informative introduction to a subject which would well repay a more detailed and critical analysis.

N.G.

RUSSIA THROUGH THE CENTURIES. By M. Philips Price, M.A., F.R.G.S., M.P. (Allen & Unwin; 5s.)

Mr. Price was *Manchester Guardian* correspondent in Russia during the years 1914-18, and he is convinced that 'the outlook of the Russian and Anglo-Saxon world are not hostile but complementary to each other, and both are rooted in the past.' Since a closer understanding between the two peoples is imperative, he has endeavoured to contribute towards that achievement by writing this outline account of the historical background of the U.S.S.R.

The result is a not very successful attempt to compress a thousand years of history into 130 pages; it is disconcerting to find the story of Vladimir's choosing between the different religions presented as a certain fact, Rasputin once again referred to as a 'dissolute monk' (dissolute, very; but neither monk nor priest), such phrases as 'elemental uprising of the Slav soul,' and the murder of the last Romanov tsar called a 'singularly unromantic martyrdom.' More serious is the impression we get that the bolshevik regime is not so bad after all, partly because the Russians were used to that sort of thing, that its methods were no worse than that 'they would be regarded by the Anglo-Saxon world as unduly threatening to civil liberties' (would Mr. Price write of the *Gestapo* in that cool way?), and such implications as that the famines of 1931-32 were entirely due to peasant sabotage. However, Mr. Price frankly admits that 'the new constitution exists on paper only.'

D.A.

THE FOREIGN MISSIONS OF THE RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH. By Serge Bolshakoff. (S.P.C.K.; 3s. 6d.)

Mr. Bolshakoff adequately refutes the oft-repeated accusation that the Russian Church is lacking in missionary activity and zeal for souls. He tells of the conversion of Vladimir, and shows how the Russian State and the Russian Church, hand in hand, overcame the Mongol hordes, and stretched out across the wastes of Siberia. Not content with that, Russian missionaries crossed over into Alaska, from 1821 to 1867 a Russian dependency, to preach to the Indians under the direction of the saintly Innocent Veniaminov. Even outside the Empire missions were founded in China and Japan. It is in the latter country that Russian missionaries achieved their greatest success owing to the work of Archbishop Nikolai, and even to-day the Russian Orthodox community is a living force in the Christian life of Japan.