

tical moral advice in a form which is at once acceptable and useful, and both author and sponsors in the case must be congratulated on their achievement.

The essays embodied in the present volume were originally delivered as a series of 'talks to women who were training to be leaders' and they retain a directness and simplicity of expression which suggests the extempore spoken address. This is undoubtedly a great asset to a work of this kind, which might so easily have become priggish and stilted. Although the form in which the advice is given is simple and at times humorous, the content is often, in its way, profound; the section on Honour, for example, is a masterly little exposition of a most delicate and intricate subject, and the analyses of character are examples of the real psychological knowledge which is to be expected from Dr. Vance.

The illustrations by Patrick O'Keeffe, although distinctly clever in themselves, appear at first sight to detract somewhat from the serious value of the book and the same is true of the flamboyant cover, but this is perhaps a question of personal taste, and it may be that to the public for which it is primarily intended, these gildings of the pill are necessary.

There can be no doubt as to the usefulness of these talks, and although an entirely Catholic production, there is nothing in the book to provoke the most scrupulous non-sectarian mind; it is admirably adapted for the widest general circulation.

ROSALIND MURRAY.

25 YEARS OF UNCONTROL. By E. Schmiedeler, O.S.B., Ph.D. (Our Sunday Visitor Press, Indiana, U.S.A., n.p.)

In 1939 the organized Birth Control movement in America celebrated its 'Silver Jubilee.' This book is a survey of the history of the first 25 years of organized 'uncontrol,' as the author prefers to call it, and of its effects on the moral and national life of the United States. It is an amazing story, and one which we imagine could easily be paralleled in any country where the modern cult of birth control has been practised. Quotations and extracts from official population statistics, from the newspaper files and from the books and speeches of the birth-controllers themselves provide the evidence. The whole is a record which warrants the author's description of it a '25 years of organized tearing down of the moral fibre of a great nation.'

We do not find much deep discussion of the ethical question of artificial birth control in itself, though there is a chapter which deals with the familiar retorts of the birth-controllers to the 'nature argument.' The chief value of the book will be to reinforce the growing realization in America and in this country, that continued and deliberate refusal to abide by the conditions upon which God allows the continued existence of the human race has led and is leading to the

material and moral ruin of nations professedly fighting for the betterment of that same human race.

E.C.

**SOCIAL SECURITY.** Edited by William A. Robson. (Allen and Unwin; 15s.)

Despite the length and detail of the Beveridge Report, and the publication of the Memoranda supplied by various organisations, the problem of social security can only be appreciated if it is viewed in its historical setting and as concerning all the separate existing social agencies. There can be no doubt that the book under review provides just such a context. The First Part deals with the present position and is prefaced by a chapter on principles, contributed by the Editor. The general picture which emerges fully justifies the charge that 'the medley of authorities is chaotic, illogical and inefficient,' and leads inevitably to the Second Part, which is a detailed appreciation and analysis of the Beveridge Report and the effects it would produce. Here a certain unevenness develops, for although Mrs. Clarke foresees some of the difficulties of administration, there are others which are glossed over or omitted, while Dr. Stark Murray in his chapter on a National Medical Service is altogether too vague and too sweeping.

While the Government has made no pronouncement on its plans with regard to Social Security, the debate about the value of Beveridge's proposals still proceeds. They can neither be accepted outright as the new Jerusalem, nor rejected outright as the arrival of the Servile State. For those who wish to judge for themselves, this collection of essays is undoubtedly of great value and can be recommended particularly to discussion groups for their libraries and to all serious students who are interested in social insurance.

J. FITZSIMONS.

**A BATSFORD CENTURY.** Edited by Hector Bolitho (Batsford; 10/6).

No single publishing firm has done more in the last four years of disruptions and destruction to preserve the spirit and the scene of the well set up and the staid England of the past than the firm of B. T. Batsford, Ltd. In spite of the deterioration of material their books have never been shoddy or unattractive. They deserve well of the future England. And now we can understand their secret: for their roots dig into the soil of England for a hundred years. Their foundation was well and truly laid when Bradley Thomas Batsford emerged from his apprenticeship in the 'Art or Mystery of Book-selling' to set up his own shop in High Holborn in 1843. Hector Bolitho, sometime biographer of royalty, has turned his attention to the biography of a family firm in editing this Centenary Record and the result of the co-operation of the editor and publisher is one of their happiest books full of interest and of a pre-war style of beauty.