

Book Reviews

of England, our martyrs, on that Dom Bede Camm insists, confident that as 'they become better known to our separated brethren, their witness to the old faith of England must strike a chord in the hearts of all men of good will.' For the enlargement of this better knowledge no man has striven more devotedly than the gatherer of this *Good Fruit*.

J.C.

ARTHURIANA. Proceedings of the Arthurian Society, Oxon.
Edited by E. Vinaver, M.A., B.Litt., D.-ès-L., and the
Rev. H. J. B. Gray. (Blackwell; 4/6 net.)

We join with Professor Faral in wishing every success to this new enterprise in mediaeval research work. With so formidable an array of contributors, the French scholar's prophecy is certain of fulfilment: 'Vous ferez régner l'ordre dans le désordre; vous établirez cette conviction que la recherche de la vérité est supérieure aux jeux de la frivolité; vous rendrez à l'histoire des droits usurpés par la littérature, par une mauvaise littérature.' Soon the last vestiges of the neo-Gothic groups of Tennyson and Morris will be swept away: 'The courtesy of Knights, fair calm and sacred rage . . . vanish those high conceits.' The Victorian Arthur 'patient and colourless' may become a heathen kinglet, bartering Cornish tin to Semitic merchants, not of Arimathea, but of Tyre in Chanaan.

We are indeed grateful to Sir Edmund Chambers for rejecting the amazing theories put forward in 'Celtic Myth and Arthurian Legend.' He shows us, in particular, how unscientific are the assumptions that Mithraism lingered on in Britain for eight hundred years following the Roman evacuation, and that there is a correspondence between modern occult societies and the mysteries underlying the Grail Cycle.

Fr. Gray's textual examination does not convince us that there is a doctrinal similarity between the *Queste* and St. Bernard's Sermons. By means of the triple appearance of the phrase 'par le conseil de la flor,' he infers that here is a clear indication of belief in the then growing cultus of Our Lady's Mediatorship. Until more conclusive data is brought to light, we feel bound to favour M. Pauphilet rather than M. Gilson.

For a student of Middle English, and for every lover of folk-lore, we would recommend this little book. We look forward to the publication of the next number.

G.A.F.