

have been primarily among priests and lay theologians. In consequence I think that he underestimates the extent of indifferentism and the strength of embittered anti-clericalism; modern Greece is in many ways an oddly Latin country. But because his book is written primarily from personal knowledge and personal love it is the best introduction to contemporary Greek Orthodoxy. It is admirably illustrated and written vividly and informally and candidly. More space should have been given to the devotion to the mother of God which is so vital a factor in the religion of the people. The apparently Western elements in the Zoe movement seem under-stressed. There might have been more discussion of sacramental practice. But as a whole Mr Hammond's account is as convincing as it is inspiring. It could only have been written as the result of many close personal contacts based on mutual trust. It may be suggested that these were only possible because of the traditional friendship between Hellas and England. It is good that this book should be published at a time when that friendship is being so violently and so wantonly destroyed.

GERVASE MATHEW, O.P.

VISITS TO THE MONASTERIES OF THE LEVANT. By Robert Curzon. (Arthur Barker; 25s.)

Robert Curzon of Parham Park in Sussex travelled in Greece, Palestine, Turkey and Egypt in 1833-34 and in 1837-1838. He possessed an immense gusto, a vivid sense of the picturesque, and a favourite hobby, the collection of old manuscripts. The extent of his knowledge of Byzantine architecture is suggested by his statement that it was different from Lombardic and Saracenic and inferior to both. He knew so little of Byzantine art that he believed that the eighteenth-century painters guide by Denis of Fournas was a tenth-century treatise. Travelling in the Egypt of Mehemet Ali and through the post-Napoleonic Levant he seems oblivious of the new fashion of Westernization. In his account of his visit to the Patriarch of the Phanar there is nothing to suggest the existence of that sophisticated group of Phanariot families with western sympathies who formed the cadre of the hereditary advisers of the ecumenical throne. Primarily he was intent on picturesque detail and in noting everything that was most different from Parham Park. *Visits to the Monasteries of the Levant* is therefore of slight value as an historic document. But Curzon's own capacity for enjoyment makes it one of the most enjoyable of travel books. And this new edition complete with Curzon's own drawings and plans and with new photographs will ensure that it keeps its place among Victorian classics.

GERVASE MATHEW, O.P.