

THE FUNCTION OF A UNIVERSITY IN A MODERN COMMUNITY. (Blackwell; 1s.)

THIS substantial pamphlet is the report of speeches made at an educational conference held in May, 1943, by the Association of University Professors of Allied Countries in Great Britain. The existence of such a body is in itself a good and hopeful sign of the possibility of a real and valuable co-operation between the Universities of post-war Europe and it can obviously make a most vitally important contribution to the work of reconstruction. It is of interest to note that, while of course all varieties of religious, philosophical, and political opinion are represented among the members of the Association its President, Professor Dr. Stefan Glaser, of Poland, and its Secretary, Professor J. A. Veraart, of Holland, are Catholics, and while in this country have taken an active interest in the work of the Newman Association of English Catholic University graduates.

The speakers at the Conference were concerned not only with the prospect of better intellectual co-operation but still more with the social function of Universities and with the causes which have prevented them from making a more effective contribution in the immediate past to the life of Europe and of their various national communities. In the course of their speeches they touch upon most of the really urgent problems of the modern University. The value of their contributions varies greatly according to their realisation of the magnitude of the moral and spiritual crisis in which we now are and the tragic completeness with which the Universities have failed to provide that leadership which might have been expected of them. Some like Professor Kot, Sir Richard Livingstone and Professor Andrade go very much to the root of the matter in various ways. Others make some useful suggestions about matters of organisation, but sometimes there is a distressing superficiality and even complacency. A very interesting group of contributions are those which deal with the problems and achievements of particular countries. That on China should be read with particular interest and sympathy.

A. H. ARMSTRONG.

TOWARDS A NEW ARISTOCRACY. A Contribution to Educational Planning. By F. C. Happold. (Faber; 5s.)

In a hundred pages Dr. Happold describes (a) his religion, (b) his opinion on the decadence of society and on its chances of revival, (c) what he as schoolmaster and headmaster has done towards this revival. The book is in three parts: Diagnosis, Experiment, Possibilities. The diagnosis comes to this: society is chaotic and largely decadent—hence Hitler, the revolt of the 'under-mind,' anti-democracy. Democracy is 'passive' (the sum of civic rights and liberties) and 'active' (the participation in representative government). Passive democracy is a priceless heritage; but active democracy must adapt itself to changed conditions. 'Mass-democracy' cannot cope