

be a source-book 'reproducing or summarizing, or editing, unpublished records or those not easily accessible, compiling and cataloguing lists of surviving records, noting records or MSS as they come to light'. It is also intended to 'place at the disposal of students the means to publish the results of their reading and investigations'. Pursuing its more general purpose, *Reportorium Novum* promises immediate attention to the records, now in the Dublin Diocesan Archives, of the Irish Colleges in Rome, Salamanca and Paris, and to the Episcopal Registers of Archbishops Carpenter, Troy, Murray and Cullen. It is plain from its programme that this new publication will make a considerable contribution not only to the history of Dublin and Ireland but to the ecclesiastical and even the parliamentary history of England.

The present number covers a wide field. The eleventh and twelfth centuries are represented by a study of the first four bishops of Dublin by Fr Aubrey Gwynn, S.J., which throws some light on the policies of Archbishops Lanfranc, Anselm and Theobald of Canterbury. An article by Fr John Ryan, S.J., on the ancestry of St Laurence O'Toole throws a vivid light on the political difficulties of the Irish reformers of the twelfth century by discussing the none too scrupulous ecclesiastical policies of the saintly Archbishop's royal relatives. Fr W. M. O'Riordan contributes a list of the Clergy secular and regular in the diocese in 1697, and Fr John Brady contributes a return of the Catholic schools in the year 1787-8. Calendars of the letters of Archbishop Mateo de Oviedo (1600-1610) and Archbishop Carpenter (1770-1780) and biographical materials for lives of Archbishops Carpenter and Cullen complete the number.

Already in this first number a considerable amount of valuable material has been made available to students of history. While it cannot be said that an equal standard is maintained by all contributors, *Reportorium Novum* is to be heartily welcomed and wished every encouragement and success.

URBAN FLANAGAN, O.P.

IN THE WAKE OF DA GAMA. By Genesta Hamilton. (Skeffington; 15s.)

The history of the Eastern African coast is still unwritten, in spite of the many documents and inscriptions and ruined cities that could be the sources for it. It is this that gives a special importance to Lady Claud Hamilton's study of the Portuguese in East Africa in the sixteenth, seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, for it is the first account to be available in English. It was never intended to be a work of scholarship. It is a vivid story told vividly with some imaginative reconstruction. But none of the imaginative reconstructions are historically untenable and the standard of factual accuracy is very high. It contains two

episodes that have always been ignored in all histories of the African Missions and of the Counter-Reformation. The first is a summary of the work of the Augustinians and Dominicans at the end of the sixteenth century, when for perhaps the only time in Christian history a considerable number of converts were made from Islam, especially in the Augustinian zone that stretched along the Kenya coast. The second is the story of the Martyrs at Mombasa in 1631, when the girl Natalia da Sa chose to be thrown alive to the sharks in the harbour rather than to renounce her faith and when the old Arab prince from Malindi, 'Dom Affonso', died rather than return to Islam.

Naturally there is an occasional slip; thus the death of the elder Seif bin Sultan of Muscat is placed in 1771. Inevitably there are omissions; thus there is no reference to the significant emergence of a Swahili culture. But these are trivialities compared to the book's merits, for it was written with infectious enjoyment, was based on much local knowledge and shows an equally sympathetic understanding for the Arabs and for the Portuguese.

GERVASE MATHEW, O.P.

A SHORT HISTORY OF THE ITALIAN PEOPLE. By Janet Penrose Trevelyan.

Revised edition with an Epilogue by D. Mack Smith. (Allen and Unwin; 32s.)

Dr G. M. Trevelyan, introducing this reprint of his wife's book, says that 'it does not appear to have been replaced by any other similar work'. If the justification is slightly apologetic, one can hardly wonder: this book smacks too much of its period (1920) to deserve resuscitation now. Not that there is nothing to be said for an anti-clerical view of Italian history—*au contraire*; but in the mid-twentieth century one expects it to be stated with rather more detachment from the passions and polemics of the nineteenth. This book is out of date in a negative way: it shows no clear signs of having been revised in the light of the historical work of the past twenty years, especially with regard to the *Risorgimento*. Mr Mack Smith's epilogue on Italy under Fascism has no more and no less value than fairly intelligent journalism. Of the rest the most one can say is that it tells part of the story, the political part, with a somewhat censorious ability. But how much it leaves out! And yet Dr Trevelyan's implied challenge remains: where, in English, is its substitute? But an unsatisfactory book does not become satisfactory through the mere lack of a rival or superior work in the same field and the same language.

K.F.