

The editor makes a significant remark. "If," he says, "the writers or compilers have erred from cold impartiality in the direction of sympathy with the common people, they and I have erred deliberately." And he adds, "*Non intratur in veritatem nisi per caritatem.*" Caritas is not always a characteristic of books of this sort, least of all perhaps when they claim a special solicitude for the common people. Mr. Eppstein must be congratulated on his continued achievement.

D.A.

RUSO-POLISH RELATIONS. By Serge Konovalov. (The Cresset Press; 4s.).

"Eastern Poland" is a case in which judgment has been given—if it be suitable to use legal terms in reference to a dispute which has now been resolved by the enforcement of sheer power, without adequate reference to the rights and wishes of the third party, the inhabitants of the territory concerned. In a sense, then, Professor Konovalov's study comes too late; it is deprived of some of its practical value: but its intrinsic usefulness and interest remain.

The book consists of an objective historical survey of the subject over nine hundred years, divided into thirty-six short sections, of which eighteen were written by the late Sir John Maynard, who originally undertook the work. As well as writing the other eighteen sections, Professor Konovalov has added seven appendices by way of documentation and six maps—two or three of which might well have been bigger and therefore clearer. Among the points illuminated are the historical significance of Russia's part in the Polish partitions of 1772-95 (the annexation of "Congress Poland" in 1815 was a very different affair) and the preceding partition of Russian territory by Sweden and Poland at the beginning of the seventeenth century. Here use is made of a very interesting article written by Lord Salisbury (then Lord Robert Cecil) in 1863.

It is a pity that Professor Konovalov does not give more information about the plebiscite conducted by the Soviet authorities in "Eastern Poland" in 1939, for it is a crucial point. Whether Poland's or Russia's claim be justified historically, if it be true that a majority of the inhabitants of the disputed area are closer ethnically (as a majority certainly is culturally) to the Russians than to the Poles, there still remains the question, Which rule, Polish or Russian, would a majority, large or small, of those people prefer to-day? Professor Konovalov does not attempt to answer that question; neither do I; neither, if you are wise, will you. In default of special and intimate knowledge we have no right to claim to answer that question positively: that is the right of the people concerned—and they have not been asked, at any rate in circumstances that beyond doubt provided for a free and unconstrained answer.

D.A.

THE BLACKBIRD OSPO, Stories of Yugo-Slavia. By J. F. Hendry. (Maclellan; 7s. 6d.).

It is not easy to give political problems the colour and shape of