

Mr Brown remarks 'Cleopatra frequently calls on her "Women, Women"'. Her creator knew that "girls" would not do at the moment of supreme stress' (p. 314), and of the line 'Tomorrow and tomorrow and tomorrow' he asks, 'Why had Marlowe never thought of it?' (p. 307). Others may abide Mr Brown's question; we are free.

P. A. BIRRELL.

BROKEN IMAGES. By John Guest. (Longmans; 10s.6d.)

This is an interesting journal of the experiences of a sensitive, literary-minded man during the late war. The author has a pleasant narrative style and considerable capacities for evoking the scenes he has witnessed. As a self-revelation, it is frank and unpretentious, and tinged with the morbidity of the *Waste Land* generation. Presumably the reason for its being sent to this journal for review lies in the description of the author's attendance at an audience given to Allied troops in the Vatican during the Italian campaign. Mr Guest is not a Catholic and his account is refreshingly direct and objective. The impression made on him by Pope Pius XII is remarkable and might, one day, prove of great importance.

P.F.

AS LITTLE CHILDREN. By Marc Bernard. (Dennis Dobson; 12s.6d.)

Novels of childhood are more wearisome than most, for the contrast between a child's world and the adult's recollection and interpretation of it is rarely managed with grace. And the heavy hand of psychological inquisitiveness has, in recent writing, made things worse. M. Bernard's book, the winner of a Prix Goncourt, is however quite exceptionally successful. It evolves, with something of a child's growing awareness of the world and his share in it, and the record of poverty and squalor in a town in the south of France is managed with a freedom from whimsy at one extreme, and from excessive crudity at the other, which reflects perhaps the sanity of a French attitude to children. A feckless mother, eccentric schoolmasters and sententious priests, crippled cobblers and remote ladies of the château—all are observed with that infallible judgment which should make even an unbeliever suspect that children have a firm hold of the Gifts of the Holy Ghost, or at least have an innocent eye free from the distortions of worldly wisdom. However that may be, *As Little Children* is attractively translated by George Reavey, and gives an authentic picture of a part of French life, and of as much of a child's mind as is likely to be available to a man's understanding.

I.E.

LES NOUVELLES TENDANCES DE LA DEMOCRATIE ANGLAISE. By Paul Visscher. Collection 'Lovanium'. (Casterman; 60fr.)

It is always interesting, and sometimes instructive, to hear what foreigners have to say about ourselves; and M. de Visscher has given us a penetrating study of the British parliamentary system.