

were a hateful encouragement to schism in the latter. These were the two greatest disasters in the Middle Ages. Mr Runciman does well to emphasise these points. Some encouraging facts emerge: first, that the disastrous effect of Latin parochialism are at last being realised; secondly, that, even in those distant centuries, many Franks proved that East and West can live harmoniously together; and lastly, because, though the Crusading purpose failed, it was a symptom of that revival of Western genius and enterprise which was later to dominate the world.

PAUL FOSTER, O.P.

THE GLASGOW STORY. By Colm Brogan. (Frederick Muller, 15s.)

There is a cosy tradition in English topographical writing which inclines the pessimistic reader to pause before a 'portrait' of a town or of a slab of countryside. Glasgow, however, is neither cosy nor English; and Mr Brogan is known as a satirist who is happier with vinegar than with oil. But in writing of his own city he has found a new and brilliant vein. He is as impatient as ever of the bogus, but confronted with the vast human heart of Glasgow he forgets to be smart, and his book is both generous and perceptive.

A belated review can therefore salute the deserved success of this sustained love-story, which tells of the growth of a city not simply in terms of commerce and municipal government (though the facts are here and are shrewdly assessed) but with a constant awareness of the men and women who made and make it what it is. 'The Problem' of Glasgow is a conflict of race and religion—the Kirk and the Catholic Chapel, Rangers and Celtic—and Mr Brogan, without attempting the clinical impartiality of the social surveyor, is just in his analysis. He places in a fair proportion the multiple factors of a society that has suffered more than most from the vested interests of human folly.

Witty, warm and unfailingly good-tempered, *The Glasgow Story* is much more than a municipal song of praise, and even those who have never taken a tram to Anniesland or who have never savoured the architectural wonders of the University will read Mr Brogan's book with the attention and admiration that must be evoked by writing that is so plainly motivated by knowledge and love.

ILLTUD EVANS, O.P.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN. By Herbert Agar. (Collins; Brief Lives series; 7s. 6d.)

In a short biography such as this only the salient facts of a great man's life can be assembled, and this has enabled Mr Agar to concentrate on the deep strands in Abraham Lincoln's character. The main impression one gets is of a deeply thoughtful man who was, consequently, essentially humble, who never took decisions without tremendous heart-searchings