

## Book Reviews

**DIE GEFANGENSCHAFTSBRIEFE DES HEILIGEN PAULUS**, übersetzt und erklärt von Dr. Max Meinertz und Dr. Fritz Tillmann. (Bonn: Peter Hanstein; mk. 5.80, bound, mk. 7.80.)

A fourth, thoroughly revised, edition has been begun of the well-known series of commentaries on the books of the New Testament by German Catholic scholars under the general editorship of Dr. Tillmann. The present volume, the first to appear, is the seventh in the series, and deals with the imprisonment epistles, Colossians, Ephesians, Philemon and Philippians. Dr. Meinertz takes the first three and Dr. Tillmann the last. At the top of the page there is a translation, and underneath a running commentary, and from time to time an *excursus* on such subjects as 'The Doctrine of Angels,' 'Pauline Christology,' 'The Church,' etc. There is no discussion of the Greek, though, of course, a very thorough examination of it by the authors underlies both the translation and the commentary. To anyone desiring a solid exposition of St. Paul's meaning and able to read simple German, this work will prove of great use.

L.W.

**THE MODERN ADVENTURE.** By W. J. Blyton. (Burns, Oates & Washbourne; 6/-.)

Everywhere the spirit of good will to neighbours who are outside the Catholic Church is manifest in this book. Mr. Blyton assures us at the very beginning that he 'does not aim at making enemies, but friends; not at bemusing people, but helping them,' and so charitable an aim is not to be disappointed. The appeal—and the profound sincerity of the appeal stamps the work—is to ordinary intelligent men and women who like to move with the times and 'keep abreast of modern thought.' Mr. Blyton knows them quite well even as he knows their difficulties, and the desire is to put them in the way of understanding. All the current superstitions are examined; and are not caricatured, for it is the sympathetic word that must first be said if we are to be listened to and to get our own message delivered. From contemporary men of science, philosophers, poets, and novelists Mr. Blyton quotes freely and often at great length. No doubt the quotations are appropriate, allowing for the purpose of the book, but for our own part we should have preferred more of the author and less of the celebrities from whom these mighty chunks are hewed. When Mr. Blyton allows himself a fair space without interruption, as in the chapters on 'Totems' and 'Facts for Foul

## *Blackfriars*

Weather,' he is excellent; reasonable and persuasive. 'The Modern Adventure' ought to be of very considerable service to the perplexed and bewildered multitudes who look for a Saviour. The title and get-up of the book, with the highly cheerful cover, should be aids to the circulation it deserves.

J.C.

**THE FAIRY RING OF COMMERCE.** By Commander Herbert SHOVE, D.S.O., R.N. (Distributist League, 7 Soho Road, Birmingham; 2/6 net.)

The very dedication, with its moving cry to 'all those English men and women who still love their country,' and its glowing allusion to 'old traditions of justice and fair play' and 'winding lanes and windswept downs,' warms our hearts. If the golden age (that never was in England or elsewhere) is rather more golden in the eyes of Commander Shove than the historian will allow, what of that? Forty years back the golden age, so the socialists believed, was yet to come. Anyway, Commander Shove feels acutely, even as Ruskin did in his day, that the present way of living in this country is altogether wrong; and that the dominance of a 'purely commercial class, necessarily actuated in the long run solely by avarice' having landed us in a horrible mess, we are in for a bad time until the system changes and the golden age returns with its 'society of peasant proprietors, supporting a culture which they themselves appreciate and enjoy to the extent of their individual capacities.' (Each one to his taste in this matter of devising ideal commonwealths; personally I still prefer the utopia sketched by William Morris in *News from Nowhere*).

Commander Shove has no hope in parliament or in government action—though parliament is a thoroughly English institution, as national as cricket—but looks to 'members of the professional and educated classes' (the very sort of people who go into politics and the Civil Service) to help us to effect the change 'by individual and group action.' The real difficulty is that many readers will be choked off by the mathematics and algebraical formulae that the author introduces to simplify his argument; also the diagrams illustrating the 'fairy ring of commerce' are rather tough propositions. But the book must be welcomed. It is at least a voice raised against the folly and injustice of our present state of society, bidding us repent and turn from idols, warning us to flee from the wrath to come. And it does deal with fundamentals and the necessity of agriculture and non-necessity of our devices for killing time and consuming leisure fruitlessly.

J.C.