

ITALY AND OTHER NATIONS

THE REMAKING OF ITALY. By PENTAD. (Penguin Books; 6d.)

This new Penguin on the Remaking of Italy will appeal to a wide and omniverous public. The central thesis is that Italy's chief enemy has always been Germany, her real friends the Anglo-Saxon peoples. The hiatus in this otherwise commendable theory is the absence of allusion to France. Perhaps Dr. Gayda's notorious contribution on this subject more than justifies the authors' omission. The first two parts are chiefly historical, and are closely concerned with substantiating the central thesis. The third part is a congenial account of the English and Italy, though more emphasis is placed on the Byron, Browning period than on the long, sustained influence and attraction that started with St. Augustine of Canterbury and rose to its peak in the sixteenth century. The last two parts on Italy under and after Fascismo are the most stimulating and provocative.

No one will disagree that the last twenty years of hyper-sensitive and hysterical nationalism have been calamitous for Italy both politically and morally. Nor is it possible to withhold admiration from those brave men who have chosen the dreariness of exile in preference to spiritual slavery in their own country. But it is equally impossible to ignore the significance of October 23rd, 1922, and its resultant consequences on the character of the Italian people themselves. The reconstruction of Italy after the war must include all Italian patriots, even those many who have swum in the swift and shallow waters of Fascist victories, at home and abroad. An attempt to approach the problem on a narrower level might well precipitate another 'Spanish War.' The authors of this book, as good Mazzinians, declare that the monarchy must perish with Fascism. But the retention of as pliant a dynasty as *casa Savoia* should embarrass no brand of post-Fascist government, while its destruction would antagonise many classes of Italians, especially the fighting services and the simple people.

JOHN VERNON.

LES ITALIENS TELS QU'ILS SONT. Par Comte Carlo Sforza. Editions de l'Arbre, Montreal; \$1.25.)

This short book of reflections about the Italian character is written not only for those who are curious about Italy, but especially for those whose first reaction on crossing the Alps was one of homecoming.

A former foreign minister and ambassador, Count Sforza draws us forward into a world where the squalor of the present seems only a forgotten stain and Italy once more holds her right place, the fountain of our European Christian heritage. Anecdote and illustration from the generous and inexhaustible store of Italian history suggest a tapestry of such dimension and richness that against it the