

REVIEWS.

A DYNAMIC WORLD ORDER". By Rt. Rev. Mgr. Donald A. McLean. (Bruce Publishing Co.; \$2.50).

There is a tendency among planners to ignore completely the Social Teaching of the Catholic Church, because, they allege, it would "drag us back to the Dark Ages". Mgr. McLean, in this, his latest book, succeeds in exploding that popular conception, and makes an earnest and well reasoned appeal for the application of Christian Principles to the complex problems of modern society. There is no support here for current "realism" in international relationships; this attitude is shown to be, in effect, nothing more than an ostrich-like policy of unseeing indulgence towards the indiscretions and aggressions of any "Big Power" holding membership of the United Nations Organisation. Such policies hold small hope of lasting peace; contrasted with an International Organisation based on the Natural Law of Man's rights, both individual and National, they are exposed as shabby compromise.

Above all, this book should illustrate beyond all doubt that the Social Teachings of the Popes are essentially practical; no problems are evaded here; clearly and concisely we are shown that most of our political and economic problems arise from lack of universal morality. To read "A Dynamic World Order" is to study the basis of a just and lasting peace.

MAURICE McLOUGHLIN.

COUNTIES OF CONTENTION. By Benedict Kiely. (Mercier Press; 7s. 6d.).

It is an old device in controversy to be unmoved by anything the other side can say. Even to pretend to be unmoved is a great asset in business. It works out to making the will stronger than the intelligence and this is material dialectic, it leads to class-struggle and internecine war and the end of a period. What else would you?

The author tackles the forlorn hope of peace in Northern Ireland. Brave and patient enough he tries to tell the story of the opposing elements. Perhaps he gives way unduly to temptations of eloquence when his point is driven home, for he can write eloquently or elegantly as occasion offers. Documentary evidence is carefully marshalled, but somewhat overlaid with good writing. One side of the controversy relies on superior force and the inertia of tired opinion, whilst the other is putting on the armour of righteous indignation, strong in the justice of its quarrel. The effect on the sympathetic reader is one of strangulation. Pamphlets have already stated the case, but it is a step in advance to have it in book form. Lord, what fools these mortals be! is an unbidden semi-conscious reflection too. But the matter goes deeper than the mind of Lord Craigavon (such mind as he had) and wider than the purpose of Lord Carson of Duncairn. The Orange movement was too successful at the outset, and its pretext too violent to be set aside as a weapon by the governing class. The Irish are more willing than ready for a fight and that is their history. Sir Edward Carson

began, it is said, as a Nationalist, and finding himself outside the charmed circle of the party, constituted himself into another party. This is a brief outline of how parties arise, but perhaps the author is a party man himself. I have seen a letter of Sir Edward's passionately disclaiming religious bigotry as entering into any of his motives. Be this as it may he has traded on the superior sincerity and loyalty of John Redmond and Co., who were seemingly unconscious, as the writer is, of the real nigger in the woodpile, vested interests. What is the use of pointing out how Orange William was the staunch ally of Innocent XI against Louis XIV when it is so plain to see that only in the great ship-building centres is the Orange myth kept alive? And by what artifice? One well known to the legal profession. The wealth of two litigants is to outside observers a sure index of the length of the case, and vice versa.

A doggerel bard, secure in his aloofness from all these gainful shams, wrote before 1914:

If I were very rich and full of taste
 I should collect—not scores by Humperdinck,
 Nor Jacobean spoons nor old French paste,
 Nor Cinemato-plays by Maeterlinck:
 Nor gems recovered from the wounded years.
 (How some of them survive I cannot think)
 One thing alone would suit my mental kink.
I should collect Sir Edward Carson's tears.

JOHN O'CONNOR.

BRITISH SURVEY HANDBOOKS, No. 4, HUNGARY, No. 5, DENMARK.
 Edited by John Eppstein. (Cambridge University Press;
 3s. each).

These further issues confirm the excellent impression made by the first volumes of the series (dealing with Belgium, Rumania and Greece), already noticed in this review.

Hungary is a country of which little is known in Great Britain; Denmark, we at least, associate with eggs and bacon and butter—and perhaps the folk high-schools. Both these books really enlighten our ignorance; but that on Hungary (the more complex and difficult subject) succeeds in giving the more living picture of the two. Over one-third of the Denmark volume, 30 pages, is given to events since 1940; this seems too much: the corresponding period in Hungary is adequately disposed of in 13 pages. We could have done with more about Grundtvig's foundations, which are no less characteristic of the Danes than is anti-Nazi sabotage. Again, the writers about Hungary give several pages to the people's religion. (In passing, "Uniates", on p. 59, is an unhappy term: its historical associations are something like "papist" or "Romanist" in England); but the reader looks in vain for anything about Danish religion and Lutheranism in that country, apart from a bare reference. In both books a page of vital statistics and similar information would be welcome. What, for example, is the population of the Faeroe islands?