

section there is an obvious, though fully acknowledged, debt to Dr Egger. But the forty-five pages on the Roman contacts with India are worth all the rest of the volume, for here Sir Mortimer Wheeler is dealing with what has been essentially his own discovery and somehow conveys vividly his zest for physical adventure, his sense of distances and of horizons, the sweep of his imagination; all those qualities, in fact, which through their odd union with detailed scientific accuracy have made him, for all the younger field archaeologists in Europe, in Dante's phrase, 'The Master of those who know'.

GERVASE MATHEW, O.P.

THE PEOPLE OF THE SIERRA. By J. A. Pitt-Rivers. (Weidenfeld and Nicolson; 18s. od.)

Dr Pitt-Rivers, a social anthropologist, has here gained an understanding of a small Andalusian town by methods which have proved their worth in the investigation of remoter, tribal, societies. He has produced one of the few studies of civilized communities which deserve to stand by the best accounts of tribal peoples. Without attempting to write a popular work, he has succeeded in describing the life and analysing the social structure of his town in a way which will interest the general reader; his account is without the lapses into rather pretentious elaboration of the commonplace which irritate the ordinary reader of some anthropological writing, especially about modern communities. The language, simple and free from jargon, is also unaffected by the stylistic over-refinement and exploitation of local colour which are fashionable in literary works of travel today, not least in evocations of Spain. The author shows himself detached and tolerant, though not indifferent, and avoids any suggestion of distasteful knowingness about the people amongst whom he was clearly a welcome guest. He has gone to great lengths to ensure that no offence should be given to his hosts by this book about them, while yet presenting them truthfully as they are and not merely as the more sophisticated of them might like to appear before a censorious 'progressive' public.

The book deals with the organization of human relations in the community, the way in which specific relationships imply general principles and moral values, and the connection between the town and the wider society of which it is a part. Dr Pitt-Rivers shows how the necessarily impersonal and abstract regulations of the State are modified within the *pueblo* by practical and charitable considerations—by neighbourliness, by respect for the unique situation of each individual. Also, a kind of practical wisdom accommodates the perception of how things ought to be to how they really are. In this Spanish town, at

least, the substance of human equality and liberty has not been sacrificed to canting theories of them.

There is much here which offers points for comparison with other peasant communities; and the book should be particularly revealing for those who are interested in the relations between tightly-knit local communities and the State organizations into which they are being forced in many parts of the world today. It is to be hoped that their problems will be solved with the civilized grasp of the importance of the individual which, in the *pueblo* of Alcala, implies a measure of cynicism about the State.

The book is well illustrated and pleasantly produced. One or two blemishes resulting from faulty proof-reading should be removed in another edition. Professor Evans-Pritchard provides a short introduction to his pupil's work.

GODFREY LIENHARDT

THE SETTLEMENT OF THE CELTIC SAINTS OF WALES. By E. G. Bowen. (University of Wales Press; 10s. 6d.)

Professor Bowen has put us all in his debt. His subject is important, difficult and quite outstandingly interesting. Furthermore, it is one on which it would have been easy to write a mediocre book. The literary sources for the history of the Welsh saints have of course been closely studied, and this process of analysis goes forward. What, however, is needed at this stage is a fresh approach, and this has been provided for us by the Gregynog Professor of Geography and Anthropology with a book which is something more than a geographer's interim report, and which will help enormously towards making possible the definitive book which one day it will be possible for a scholar to write.

In eight chapters, illustrated by fifty-six maps and plans, the facts about the distribution of cult, the position, site and form of the saints' settlements is presented to the reader. There is a splendid bibliography and a sound index.

The book deserves the careful study of all those Catholics in Wales who can grasp how impossible it is to appreciate a society without a knowledge of its past. To take a single and entirely practical example, namely the dedication of churches. In Wales, geography, history and religious tradition are inseparably knit with church dedication, and to ignore this is to incur the responsibility of making oneself ridiculous.

Again, one is struck by the wealth of material which Professor Bowen's book places at the disposal of the teacher of history. What a series of admirable lessons could come from its intelligent use by a teacher in a Catholic school in Wales, and how such lessons could link up with, and be illuminated by, Robert Jones' account in *Drych yr*