

Book Reviews

THE CATHOLIC LAND MOVEMENT. Its Motives : by Fr. Vincent McNabb, O.P., S.T.M. Its Aims and Methods : by Commander Herbert Shove, D.S.O., R.N. With a Foreword by G. K. Chesterton. (London : Catholic Truth Society. Pp. 28 ; 2d.)

Immediately and urgently concerned with major things, this little book makes most other books seem so much fiddling while Rome is burning. It is not without significance that the organized movement of Catholics back to the land started in Scotland. For the affair is not just so much talk, you can no longer say 'Oh yes, Distributists—great talkers' and leave it at that, but a scheme already being put into practice through the various Catholic Land Associations in the country. It is not just a waft of hot air, but an almost dour matter-of-fact realization that a people, as Napoleon said of an army, moves on its stomach. It is able to defend itself by this alone, though in fact the stomachs belong to bodies informed by souls meant for a decent and gracious existence. It is an economic proposal, but its reasons are nothing less than the preserving and renewing of personal and family integrity.

T.G.

THE HISTORY OF THE POPES FROM THE CLOSE OF THE MIDDLE AGES. By Ludwig von Pastor. Edited by R. F. Kerr, of the Oratory. Vols. xxi, xxii. (Kegan Paul, 1932 ; cloth 15/- net each volume.)

This latest instalment of Pastor's History is almost entirely devoted to the pontificate of Sixtus the Fifth, one of the most celebrated of the Popes, a Pope whose policy saved the Catholic faith in France and prevented Philip II from converting Rome into a Spanish Avignon, a Pope who strenuously seconded the work of Catholic Restoration all over Europe, a Pope who gave the central government of the Church its permanent form, a Pope possessed of supreme genius and an extraordinary personality, one of the greatest rulers (says Döllinger) of all times. The two volumes are crowded with interest, and will thrill their every reader. Not the least entrancing chapters are those which show the terrible Sixtus as triumphant ruler, the ruthless extirpator of brigandage, while the sections dealing with the Spanish Armada and with the death of Mary Queen of Scots possess for ourselves a peculiar interest. The brief succeeding Pontificates of Urban VII, Gregory XIV, and Innocent IX, all three compressed into a period of fifteen months, are also adequately treated.

F.R.B.