

according to Jesus, but according to the world. "You know not of what spirit you are," was the reply of Christ to those who wanted him thus to convert the infidels—into ashes.'

We are living through a twilight of civilisation. But 'it often happens in human history that in the twilight itself are already discernible the first gleams of a new dawn.' The idea of a re-birth of democracy, of a new democracy founded upon religious truth, is already potent; 'the fact,' as Mr. Lipmann put it in the *New York Herald*, 'that the President, the most influential democratic leader in the world, recognises religion as the source of democracy and international good faith, constitutes a fundamental reorientation in the democratic concept of life.' But words, however influential, will not achieve anything without that immense effort of renewal on the part of Christians of which M. Maritain speaks. That his lecture should make that so clear, and that it should state so emphatically the irreducible opposition between the empire of hate and the kingdom of love, and the impossibility of achieving victory for the latter with the weapons of the former, is the measure of the opportuneness of its publication.

GERALD VANN, O.P.

A DIARY OF WORLD AFFAIRS. By Marcel Holden. (Penguin Special; 6d.)

Here is a successful attempt to tell the story of the nine and a half months from the French Armistice to the opening of the German campaign in the Balkans. It is told with vigour, and fulfils its purpose of being 'a guide through a maze of facts,' bringing out their connection one with another. One of the things which struck me was the continual pressure that had to be exerted on the Vichy Government before it reluctantly 'collaborated.' It is a pity that the plight of the Polish people seems to have been forgotten. They are in the centre of the stage.

B.B.

VÉRITÉS SUR LA FRANCE. By Louis Lévy. (Édition Pingouin; 6d.)

The author of this book (of which a translation has already appeared in the Penguin Series) was for twenty years on the staff of 'Le Populaire,' the paper of M. Blum's Socialist Party. It is written from that angle. For example, one of the criticisms directed against the Vichy Government is that it has adopted a reactionary educational policy and has completely suppressed the anti-clerical laws which had prevented the Catholic Church from gaining control of the State (p. 179). There are many opinions expressed in the book, and there are many people who would disagree with most of them. It is full of generalisations, and almost everything and everyone is condemned, save the Socialist Party and its members.

B.B.