

resulted in a certain lack of liveliness, but one could not ask for a more balanced survey. Professor Creel himself is firmly positivist and rationalist in his outlook, which makes him naturally much more in sympathy with Confucius than with the mystical doctrine of Taoism and Buddhism, and his interpretation of Taoist doctrine sometimes leaves a good deal to be desired. But he is particularly good in showing how the principles of authoritarianism and totalitarianism are present in Chinese thought from a very early date. In this way the Marxist doctrine of Mao Tse-tung is seen to have some affinity with early Chinese thought. The Chinese have always been strongly practical and political in their outlook, but they have tended to veer between a profoundly mystical and a cruelly realist philosophy. At present they are going through a phase of materialism, but one may hope that their native genius will reassert itself and recover those elements of deep piety and mysticism which underlie their finest thought.

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CHRIST AND THE SAILOR. By Peter F. Anson. (Burns Oates; 13s. 6d.)

This new book of Mr Anson's about the sea is written to serve as an introduction to an earlier book, *The Church and the Sailor*. There he gave 'a rough sketch of how Christ has been revealed to seafarers in the past nineteen hundred years'. But since 'the three years of the active ministry of Christ were bound up with fishermen, fishing and fishing boats', much of the revelation of Christ remains mysterious without some understanding of this setting. And this is what the author sets out to give. Mr Anson is not, and does not pretend to be, a biblical scholar. But assisted by his thorough acquaintance with the things of the sea, he is able to bring to light many aspects of the Gospels and the Acts hitherto hurriedly passed by. The 'last call of the fishermen-apostles' described in Luke 5: 1-11 is worth noting in this regard. The author accepts the opinion of those exegetes who regard this incident as distinct from that recorded by the other Synoptics, and does not attempt to justify his view. He is concerned rather to explain the incident in itself, succeeding in giving a penetrating analysis. Again, the many 'journeys' on which he takes the reader (such as to the sea-coast of Tyre and Sidon, and the missionary journeys of St Paul) often make a passage come to life. Many 'landlubbers' may be inclined to feel, however, that the importance of the sea, and those who make their living from it, is rather overrated in the book. Although Mr Anson seldom allows his enthusiasm to carry him so far as to misinterpret any of the 'maritime incidents' he deals with, one rather suspects that the fisher-community has outgrown its due proportions. The excellent photographs of the sea, boats, fishermen and tackle make a pleasant accompaniment to the book.

V.G.