

culty about the countries of refuge coming to an agreement on the nature of a travel document recognisable by all as valid, and there is no need to seek the agreement of the country of origin since the refugee has left it for as long as the hostile government remains in power. But that government is not necessarily hostile to the refugee's hosts and cannot but feel slighted by this solemn drawing up of a guarantee of protection to one of its criminal subjects (for it is only when political opposition becomes a crime that flight is necessary). It is this factor which, if it does not nullify international action on behalf of refugees, renders all efforts pitifully inadequate to meet the need. Hence in order to rescue a few Jews from Goering we had to co-operate in financing the Nazi state—a crime for which some will probably have paid the capital penalty by the time these lines appear—and why now, more happily inspired, Mr Noel Baker has to remind Russia that Britain admitted Karl Marx and Switzerland Lenin without consulting the Czarist Government. The million or so displaced persons in Europe present a graver problem than that of individual emigrants in an age when the religion of humanity still meant something, however remote it might be from Christian charity. As we cannot hope to restore that common understanding for many a long year, perhaps for generations, we have to be content with these more limited contributions. But within their limits they are valuable, and we are grateful.

EDWARD QUINN

ECONOMIC REBIRTH. By R. G. Hawtrey. (Longmans, Green; 5s.)

Mr Hawtrey does not provide us with a short cut to prosperity in the world slowly and very unsurely emerging from war; he does not give us a method which, if long, will certainly prove effective. He is wisely content to state 'the dangers and difficulties' of the situation. He does so in a language and style notably well adapted to the ordinary reader's understanding. This in itself is a great achievement: economists often attempt to be simple, but rarely succeed, carrying the reader on to bewildering conclusions through their habit of giving a technical sense to familiar terms. Mr Hawtrey perhaps goes too far in the opposite direction: surely only the semi-illiterate require 'let-do' for 'laissez faire'. The main difficulty will be to remedy critical deficiencies, the main danger will arise from redundant money. These facts are well-known and it is agreed that some degree of State-direction and control will be necessary to apply the remedy and overcome the danger, but the elements of economics—the credit system, the organisation of industry, international trade, etc.—necessary for the proper appreciation of the facts have seldom been so clearly explained. The author's suggestion of a state monopoly of wholesale dealing merits a close examination and his combination of an obvious sympathy with the system of private enterprise with a readiness to face facts is admirable.

EDWARD QUINN