

on expository considerations, the drawing is masterly and the interpretative power of the painter amazing.

The extension to the study of orthodoxy of the author's plea that even the oddest sect should receive unbiased attention would have saved him from such unwarranted solutions as the ascription to Catholic Moral Theology of 'the Adamite sexual secret' brought up in the Cambrai trial. Inaccuracies abound. The printer, possibly responsible for *eschatalogical* [sic] (p. 23) is unlikely to have invented *bene loquere* [sic] (p. 21) or to have altered the name of the author of the *Evangelium Aeternum* from *Gioacchino da Fiore* to *Giacomo di Fiore* (*passim*). An old woman hailed as 'the Diotima of the Sect' in 1411 can hardly be 'identical with the celebrated Sister Hadewijch', *floruit circa 1250* (p. 28).

The author's special pleading for the *gnosis* of an antinomian sect embraces everything down to the Life-Rune or secret sign of the initiates. We might follow him with greater confidence into the by-ways had we not seen him trip up so often on the high roads.

DESMOND CHUTE

ADVENTURES IN TWO WORLDS. By A. J. Cronin. (Gollancz; 16s.)

The autobiography of a best-selling novelist who is also a doctor might be expected to be readable, and Dr Cronin's book is certainly that. Here is the success-story of a Scottish boy who, after a varied medical career, at the first attempt reached the heights of popular esteem as the author of *Hatter's Castle*. But the title of *Adventures in Two Worlds* suggests Dr Cronin's double theme. The innumerable admirers of the novels will find the record of his own experiences which he turned to such advantage: the South Wales colliery disasters, the fashionable frauds of Harley Street consulting rooms, the personal problems of his patients. But the second world is that of the spirit, of the Catholic faith of his youth to which Dr Cronin has returned with a new—and, some will say, with a curiously eclectic—understanding. 'Of one thing I am convinced: nothing, no philosophy, no power on earth will restore our shocked and shattered world except the teaching of Him who bore to Golgotha the burden of all mankind.' This autobiography, generous in intention if somewhat guarded in its revelation of its author, will reach thousands who are indifferent to an ordered apologetic, and cannot fail to touch the hearts of those who are capable of sharing in its deep compassion.

I.E.