

explicitness, since it may well be that in bringing drama back to the church Fry feared lest his work might be dogmatic and hence avoided anything which might savour of over-simplification. 'The Church knows all the answers' is an attitude which a dramatist (if he is to remain an artist) cannot adopt: the answers must be the corollaries of statements which are dramatic, not dogmatic. So it is that *A Sleep of Prisoners* is essentially an experiment in drama, an interim work: it is not so much a change of direction as a development, and like all Fry's plays, after the performance is over or the script has been closed, lines echo in the memory.

*Show me the ending great enough
To hold the passion of this beginning
And raise me to it*

are some such lines.

NEVILLE BRAYBROOKE

YORK. By John Rodgers. (Batsford; 8s. 6d.)

This is essentially a book for the visitor to York, whether he comes from south of the Trent, west of the Severn or from across the Atlantic; and a very delightful book it is. For York is not only a great English city: it is European. It is a provincial capital, but it has missed provincialism. It is also the one really fine specimen of a walled city in England, and in spite of its wealth of good architecture and its historic past, it has never consciously posed itself as a tourist centre. In fact, as Mr Rodgers points out, the danger, too often, in the past has been that its citizens might fail to realise in time how magnificent their city was. The nineteenth century saw a great deal of unintelligent demolition. The author writes with commendable gusto, as indeed he should, for he was educated at St Peter's famous school. There are times when, perhaps, his delight in York out-distances his sense of proportion. Micklegate is a very fine street, but it is hard to think of it as one of the most beautiful in Europe; and it is a pity that a number of small errors were not removed from the text before publication. These will, very properly, not bother the visitor, but they may make the native less appreciative than he might have been of Mr Rodger's vigorous book.

As might be expected, the photographs are excellent, and there is a useful map. Furthermore, and a not unimportant point, the book is of a size which is convenient for the tourist's pocket, in both senses. With some of Mr Rodger's opinions it is possible to argue, but there can be nothing but agreement with his condemnation of the tower of St Wilfrid's which affronts the eye and spoils so many views of the Minster. There is a lot to be said for St Wilfrid's Church, but nothing for its tower. Is it, one wonders, too late to celebrate the centenary of the restoration of the hierarchy by removing it?

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