

HERITAGE OF BYZANTIUM. By Marcu Beza. (S.P.C.K.; 8s. 6d.)

Heritage of Byzantium may be regarded as in a sense a sort of footnote to the book noticed above. It consists of a score of sketches, reprinted from the Greek weekly *Hellas*, under the general heading of 'In Search of Hellenic Shrines'. The writer's meanderings (the word seems really appropriate) take the reader from Mar Saba to Meteora and from Daphne to Sinai, while the last few pages are a slight but enlightening little essay on Orthodoxy in the Balkans.

Mr Beza's knowledge of these lands and their religion is from the inside, he writes with fullest sympathy, and his vignettes are living pictures whose background is no less 'classical' than Christian. Moreover, he is an authority on as well as a lover of Byzantine art, and not the least of his book's attractions are the pictures of places and things. One is of presentday offerings hanging from a fig tree at the source of the river Adonis (Bahr Ibrâhîm), near Byblos, amid the ruins of the temple of Astarte. That is truly shaking. D. D. A.

THE HOUSE OF ORANGE. By Marion E. Grew. (Methuen; 16s.)

The title of this book is misleading; it should be called 'The Principality of Orange', for the author did not set out to do more than describe the fate of that little city on the Rhone which gave its princely title to the House. Naturally, much of the story of that house is involved and we learn something of the great figures like William the Silent and our own William III, but there is far more that is not referred to. The story is, then, strictly limited to that of a small city-state which was only fortuitously connected with one of the great European families, and is still further limited by the author's concentration on two themes only, the connection of the city with its ruling family until the French kingdom absorbed it under Louis XIV, and the fortunes of the Huguenot faction within its walls. We learn nothing of the trade or social complexion of the community, and nothing of its connection with the general life of the European district in which it is situated. Much of the story remains obscure to the general reader because the publishers, though they have provided a portrait of the Earl of Portland, not a very important figure in the story, have omitted a map showing the position of the city, and might well have found some ancient plan and even picture of Orange which would have been immensely helpful in following the tangled account of its internal factions. Doubtless if Mrs Grew had lived to see the book through the press these omissions would have been rectified, and various minor errors would have been corrected. We learn from a brief introductory biography that Mrs Grew was a friend of Huxley, Jowitt and Mark Pattison, so that it is not surprising to find that her account of the troubles between Catholics and Huguenots is a naïvely Protestant one and, indeed, one gathers from the concluding pages of the book that her main purpose was not so much to write a serious piece of historical

research, as to glorify the factious policies of her heroes the Huguenots. For its high price the book is somewhat meagre, and it is only occasionally that Mrs Grew expands her account sufficiently to make one of her characters come to life. She does this with the sympathetic figure of the Protestant minister de Chambrun, and one can only wish that Mrs Grew had lived to write a far larger and more interesting book.

PAUL FOSTER, O.P.

MITRI OR THE STORY OF PRINCE DEMETRIUS AUGUSTINE GALLITZIN. By Daniel Sargent. (Longmans; \$3.50.)

This is a charming book. Mr Daniel Sargent has already given us an excellent life of St Thomas More and in this volume he has shown again his power of evocative writing and his ability to make a character live. The publishers refer to his 'rugged, pulsing, scholarly prose'; presumably by the first epithet they mean his occasional habit of using an adjective for an adverb; but apart from this minor defect the writing is admirably suited to the presentation of a delightful and inspiring character. The story opens in the Europe of the Enlightenment, with Prince Gallitzin's mother as the friend of Diderot and Goethe and there is a vivid description of aristocratic intellectual circles. In this atmosphere the young prince grew up, almost completely overshadowed by his brilliant mother who, however, on becoming a Catholic, saw to it that her children should also be taught the faith. The young prince then went on the Grand Tour which, in his case, brought him to the United States in 1792 and in that new world he discovered his own liberty of action and determined to become a priest. He became the apostle of a remote district in the Alleghanies and lived on to an advanced age to become an almost legendary figure. This is essentially the story of a priest, though of one with a romantic and unlikely origin, a most lovable, human priest, with many faults and more virtues. In this capacity he was the initiator of a great Catholic agricultural settlement in the wild district he chose as his sphere of work. The one fault one might find with this delightful biography is that it does not sufficiently describe for European readers the eventual fortunes of the community Prince Gallitzin established at his Loretto in the Alleghany Mountains in the early years of the nineteenth century, where he lived for so many years and became the patriarch and friend of a great section of the infant Church in the United States.

PAUL FOSTER, O.P.

A TREATISE ON THE NOVEL. By Robert Liddell. (Cape; 9s. 6d.)

'Fiction is the delineation of character in action', says Mr Liddell, and his *Treatise on the Novel* may be simply described as the most exact, as it is certainly the best written, treatment of that process which has yet appeared in English. Mr Liddell starts with notable advantages in a literary critic. He has an almost clinical accuracy of