

on Ravel's methods of construction, his harmonic idiom and his technique in writing both for keyboard and for orchestra. He is over-eager to defend Ravel from the charge of being a '*petit maître*', but his discussion must bring a fuller appreciation of the fine qualities of the composer's larger works, as well as of the original genius underlying all his best work, on whatever scale.

ROSEMARY HUGHES

VISION OF PERU. By Violet Clifton. (Duckworth; 21s.)

Mrs Clifton has done well in calling her book a 'Vision'. Her approach is sensory rather than conceptual, resulting in a nebulous impressionism which, while it blurs the outline and obscures the shape of her narrative, tends at times to be somewhat tedious to those bred in the fresher atmosphere of the ordered precision of well-attested facts and their logical deductions. There are, moreover, certain purely subjective passages—for example, the pre-natal experiences of Martin Porres, on page 264—which might well have been omitted without prejudice to the general build-up of the picture.

It is evident that Mrs Clifton has lived among the scenes she describes with such colourful imagery and such powerful understanding of human passions. Her knowledge of her sources is surely unrivalled; and but rarely does one come across an author who can merge her consciousness so wholeheartedly into the life whose unfolding she describes.

Having reached the end of her task, Mrs Clifton tells us that she has intended to show 'how God is guessed at by means of Nature—of lightning and of sun; and is through reason known of by the writings and by the teachings, and by the revelation of the Spoken Word; and at last of God experienced by the love, and in the wilful choosing of the mystics; of the Saints'. Beginning in the mists of primitive legend, primal urges jostle one another until there emerges the worship of the Sun. There seems to be no trace of a primitive revelation. Apart from a passing reference to 'a haunting memory of a great destruction by water', there is nothing to compare with oriental traditions of a Golden Age, no mention of a 'Fall' from an original state of integrity. On the contrary, the race appears to emerge from the Caves of Birth with the God *Vira Cocha* who rose from Lake Titicaca. This first section of the book traces the slow development of the Inca Empire, under the aegis of *Vira Cocha*, the Sun God, until *Huayna's* division of the inheritance between his rightful heir *Hauscar* and his illegitimate son *Atahualpa* laid the country open to the Spanish conquerors, in the first quarter of the sixteenth century.

The second section deals with the conquest, and the consequent influx of the romantic chivalry of medieval Christian Spain into the consciousness of the still primitive Indian mind. Christianity and Spanish culture accompanied the conquest, and inter-marriage

quickly followed. From this merging of the fiery, proud, high-minded Christianity of Spain with the primal simplicity and nature-loving spontaneity of the New World came the Christian civilisation of Latin America, having as its first-fruits the fragrant sanctity of Rose of Lima and Martin Porres, son of slave woman and Spanish knight.  
S. M. L.

## BOOKS RECEIVED

- Blackfriars*. George Kaftal: St Dominic in Early Tuscan Painting, 7s. 6d.; Vincent McNabb, O.P. (tr.): The Akathistos Hymn, 3s. 6d.; Ferdinand Valentine, O.P.: Reading Between The Lines, 6s. 0d.
- Blackwell*. Eliabeth Dawes and Norman H. Baynes (tr.): Contemporary Biographies of Three Byzantine Saints, 21s.; Richard O'Sullivan: The King's Good Servant, 8s. 6d.
- Bloomsbury Publishing Co.* Sister Mary Ansgar, O.P.: Angels Come to Mass, 2s.
- Cambridge University Press*. Sir Richard Livingstone: Some Thoughts on University Education, 2s. 6d.
- Cary & Co.* Michael Bowes: Missa 'Maria Immaculata', 2s.
- Colledgeville Press*. Basil N. Aldridge: The Spirit of St Benedict, 66c.; Leonard J. Doyle (tr.): St Benedict's Rule for Monasteries, \$2.00.
- Dacre Press*. Joseph Barker, C.R.: The Sacrifices of the People, 3s.; Community of St Mary the Virgin: Butler of Wantage, 6s. 6d.; Horton Davies: The Worship of the English Puritan, 25s.; Douglas Edwards, C.R.: The Ultimate Choice, 2s. 6d.; F. H. Maycok: Original Sin, 3s.; A. E. Simpson: So God Loved, 3s.
- Dobson*. S. I. Bethell: Literary Criticism, 6s.
- Duckett*. M. M. Merrick: The Jesus Psalter, 3s. 6d.
- Eyre & Spottiswoode*. Ellery Sedgwick: The Happy Profession, 15s.
- Faber & Faber*. Otto Pächt: The Master of Mary of Burgundy, 21s.
- Gill (Dublin)*. St Alphonsus: All My Days For God, 6s. 6d.
- Heinemann*. James Hemming: Teach Them to Live, 8s. 6d.
- Hodder & Stoughton*. G. K. A. Bell: Christian Unity, 6s.; Taffrail: Western Mediterranean 1942-45, 20s.
- Hollis & Carter*. Maureen Daly: Seventeenth Summer, 9s. 6d.
- Mercier Press*. Fr James, O.F.M.Cap.: How to Walk with the Holy Spirit, 9d.
- Newspaper World*. The Press 1898-1948, 2s. 6d.
- Pantheon Books (New York)*. A. Zimmer (Joseph Campbell, ed.): The King and The Corpse, \$3.75.
- Sacred Heart College*. P. E. Collier, S.C.J.: The Saint of Betharram, 2s. 6d.
- Sands*. Janet Marv Scott: St Jane Francis de Chantal, 5s.
- Sheed & Ward*. Philip Hughes: History of the Church (2 vols.), Vol. I 21s., Vol. II 25s.
- S.P.C.K.* C. Zvegintzov: Our Mother Church, 3s. 6d.
- Ulster Union Club*. Unionism or Unity?, 6d.
- Yale (Geoffrey Cumberlege)*. Charles William Hendel: Civilization and Religion, 11s. 6d.

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