

STALIN. By I. Deutscher. (Oxford University Press; 25s.)

This long and somewhat austere life of Stalin is likely to remain a standard work for many years to come. In its treatment of the subject, obviously the result of patient and detailed research, the difficulties of the biographer of a demi-god who is still living are obvious. The early part of Stalin's life is treated in great detail, but once Stalin assumes power and becomes *the* public figure of Russia further private revelations are impossible. All that the researcher can do, and Mr Deutscher has done it splendidly, is to give the public record and speculate on it.

The contrast with Trotsky's picture of the mediocre party servant is striking. Stalin emerges from this work as a leader who cultivated power and the way leading to power with great single-mindedness. He may have started as the servant of an insurgent people, says Mr Deutscher, but he made himself its master, and this by means of a political machine. Eventually he liquidated those who had served to hoist him to power, and now he remains on the pinnacle, surrounded by the stench of the rivers of blood he has loosed and the adulation of the men, his minor selves, who depend so utterly on him. J.F.

MILITARY ATTACHÉ IN MOSCOW. By Richard Hilton.

THE GREEK SEDITION. By F. A. Voigt. (Both Hollis and Carter; 10s. 6d. each.)

The two books under review are useful studies of Communism at work, the first at its centre, Moscow, the second on its periphery in Greece. The account of his life at the Embassy written by Major-General Hilton is a very readable one and many of his experiences would be amusing if there were not the tragic background of the Communist tyranny there all the time. The book is, indeed, a record of the author's deepening realisation of its horror and its oppression of the Russian people. He ends by making very clear the impossibility of any compromise between Christianity and the Communist system. Mr Voigt, on the other hand, is a rather heavy writer and is concerned to give an objective account of the attempt by Communism to dominate Greece. This he has studied on the spot and illustrates with copious personal information, but the main core of his book is a root-and-branch examination of Communist political methods and their meaning for us in England. This is extremely valuable and clear and he thoroughly justifies his indignation with those English and American publicists who, terrified by the thought that we may be forced to war against Communism, urge upon the Greek Government a 'moderation' which would mean the extinction of that country and the domination of the Middle East by Russia. But this is not a mere matter of imperialism; it is a matter of our common humanity, as, for instance, in the case of the kidnapped Greek children for whom Queen Frederika has appealed