

## *Book Reviews*

seventy-three pages, the Second four, the Third three, the Fourth has a generous allowance of fifty, while the remainder are given nine. Moreover, the reader is for the most part left in ignorance as to the fortunes of the Latin states in the intervening periods between the crusades, and little is said on the very important matter of their organisation.

Mr. Coulton also fails to bring out with sufficient effectiveness the problems and difficulties which the Greek Empire presented to the Crusaders, and he under-estimates, by implication, the issues at stake in the struggle between the Papacy and the Empire. He tends to under-estimate, too, the military effectiveness of the crusades by laying emphasis on the failure of the crusading states to maintain their position. The crusading movement, with its enthusiasm and inspiration, acted as a breakwater, which prevented the oncoming wave of Islam from submerging Europe. The crusades are to be judged as much by what they prevented as by what they achieved.

Within the limited space at his command, Mr. Coulton has produced a book which is both readable and informative. It is to be recommended as such and not as a text-book.

T.C-E.

**CRANMER.** By Hilaire Belloc. (London: Cassell; pp. 324; 15/-.)

Mr. Belloc's portrait of the English Reformation, with the poor, bewildered figure of Cranmer moving timidly in its very centre, is a masterly piece of writing. It is not a pretty picture—Mr. Belloc spares neither the Church nor the anti-clerical move in the political game, which subsequently developed into the Church of England. Pope Clement comes out of the whole sorry business with but little more dignity than Cranmer himself. But besides weakness and indecision, Cranmer had a treacherous mind and he did not scruple to betray his benefactors to save his own neck. Of his desertion of Anne in the moment of danger, even Sergeant remarks: 'His subsequent action with regard to his hapless patroness can cause no surprise. It seems hardly necessary to insert Cranmer's name, as has been suggested, in a list of saints of the English Church.'

So far, so good; but one feels that Mr. Belloc's portraits of Anne and the King are somehow distorted. Henry, a Catholic, firmly believing in the Real Presence, in character weak; Anne, a Lutheran, strong, masterful, and bad: such are the pictures. But the evidence seems to show her character as having been composed of vanity and shallowness, which together with judi-

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cious pushing by her unscrupulous relatives elevated her to the throne for so short a reign. If she had been strong and bad, she would have held Henry for more than three short years; and the manner of her death goes far to prove that her declaration of her innocence was true.

The book is written in Mr. Belloc's most brilliant style, and, allowing for his prejudices, gives us a magnificently coloured picture of all that good and evil which went to make up Tudor England.

S. G. U.

THE ENGLISH CARDINALS. By G. C. Heseltine. (Burns, Oates and Washbourne; 5/-).

Thirty-eight Englishmen have received the Red Hat, and the short sketches of their careers given in this little book make an almost complete history of the Church in England since the middle of the twelfth century, when Robert Pullen became the first English Cardinal. Thirty-eight may seem a small number, yet if we look at other European countries we find that only four, Italy, France, Spain and Germany can claim more; and if England had not gone into schism in 1534, she might easily have come third on the list. Ireland has only had five Cardinals, excluding those of her sons who have governed great seas in other countries, and all these have been since the middle of the nineteenth century. Of the thirty-eight, twenty-four were drawn from the secular clergy, five were Benedictines, five Dominicans, two were Austin Canons, one a Cistercian and one a Franciscan. The author brings the number up to forty by including for the sake of convenience two Scottish Cardinals, Beaton and Erskine. Cardinal Walter Wardlaw, Bishop of Glasgow, created Cardinal by Clement VII in 1383, was the first Scottish Cardinal, but he is here omitted presumably because Clement VII is now universally regarded as an Antipope. We must remember, however, that the Cardinals created by the rival Pontiffs at this period had their rank afterwards approved by the Councils of Pisa and Florence. The claim of Herbert de Bosham, the friend of St. Thomas à Becket, to a place amongst the English Cardinals is favoured by the author on the ground that most authorities agree that he was Archbishop of Benevento and Cardinal about 1178. These authorities are all of the seventeenth century, and therefore of little weight. On page 37, Robert Kilwardby is said to have been attracted to the Order about the year 1252, by the renown of St. Thomas