

occult tradition. He drew his views direct from Boehme not from Berkeley.

Despite such criticism we do feel that the book by its very objective and matter-of-fact treatment of Blake and his visions will be helpful to the reader who neither wishes to sink into the depths of the Prophetic Books nor be enlightened as to the names and natures of the Living Creatures with which they deal. After all these represent only a small part of Blake's life work although to some the most interesting. Most commentators become so befogged in them as to lose sight of the whole man and the whole artist who wrote them. This Dr Blackstone never does even if his Blake emerges rather cleaner and tidier than in real life.

The analysis of Blake's religious views is excellent but we feel that we should have been spared many of Dr Blackstone's musings on them. Knowledge of Blake is not helped by such silly remarks as 'When we watch a child at play we are in the presence of a religious act, an act far more religious than any adult can produce with his religious forms and ceremonies or his vague aspirations' (p. 397). We could also dispense with several sneers at institutional religion in general and at Catholicism in particular.

Blake's anticlericalism, which is the cause of the remarks, is well known, but his own real religious experience gave him a deep respect for sincerity of belief in others. Witness his defence of Chaucer's Poor Parson. Of the Catholic Church, he said that it was the only one which really understood the forgiveness of sins. His visionary conception of the nature of the Mystical Body might have brought him very near the Church had he applied it practically.

The book is beautifully produced. The few illustrations give an idea of Blake's different moods. Plate V should be entitled 'Los arising from the Waters', not 'Urizen repelling the Waves'.

JANET CLEEVES.

BOOKS RECEIVED

- Batsford*. H. L. Edlin: Woodland Crafts in Britain, 15s; Christina Hole: English Sports and Pastimes, 15s.
Blackfriars. George Kaftal: St Catherine in Tuscan Painting, 10s. 6d.
Bruce (U.S.A.). Thomas P. Neill: Makers of the Modern Mind, \$3.75; Francis Beauchesne Thornton: How to Improve Your Personality by Reading, \$2.50.
Jcnathan Cape. Frank Mumby: Publishing and Bookselling, 25s.
Casterman. Jacques Leclercq: Le Mariage Chrétien, 60 fr.
Cerf. Homeliaire Patristique, n.p.
Faber and Faber. Gai Eaton: The Richest Vein, 15s.
Lindsay Drummond. Alan Houghton Brodrick: Lascaux, A Commentary, 15s.
Herder. Michel Philippon: Die geistliche Lehre Schwester Elisabeths, n.p.
Macdonald. F. Sherwood Taylor: Concerning Science, 6s.
Mowbray. Difficulties, 4s.
National Council of Social Service. Work and Leisure, 3s. 6d.
Nelson. H. E. Butler (Ed.): The Chronicle of Jocelin of Brakelond, 15s.
Oliver and Boyd. Thomas F. Torrance: The Doctrine of Grace in the Apostolic Fathers, 12s. 6d.

Oxford University Press. H. W. B. Joseph: Lectures on the Philosophy of Leibniz, 15s.

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Jozef Pilsudski Institute of America. Poland in the British Parliament, \$5.00.

Rockcliffe. Hans L. Martensen: Jacob Boehme, 21s.

Walter Romig. Guide to Catholic Literature, 1948, \$3.75.

Routledge and Kegan Paul. J. D. Bernal: The Freedom of Necessity, 18s.;

Rudolph Schlesinger: Changing Attitudes in Soviet Russia, 25s.

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