

ATELIER 17, NEW ETCHINGS AND ENGRAVINGS by Members of the Group. PAINTINGS AND DRAWINGS by Lord Methuen. PAINTINGS by Ivon Hitchens. At the Leicester Galleries. From March 12th to April 2nd.

The merely photographic rendering of the object observed is of course aesthetically deplorable, but the entirely abstract interpretation of the universe can be equally unsatisfactory. The latter is true of the greater number of the works exhibited by members of Atelier 17. Because as craftsmen they possess a faultless command over their tools, it is disappointing to discover that as artists they are singularly devoid of vision. It must not be inferred from this that any departure from a literal conception of the forms around us necessarily results in an absence of vision—that most certainly is not the case. The lack of inspiration, which becomes apparent upon closer scrutiny, is often obscured by an understanding of design and the capacity to apply that knowledge. Amongst the exhibits by this group Leo Katz's *Pegasus* and Jacques Lipchitz's *Minotaur* are more satisfactory. In both these instances the artists appear to be fired by an enthusiasm which carries them beyond the limits of mere technical ability.

Lord Methuen's paintings and drawings are not remarkable for any particular quality; the treatment of the subjects is conventional and in *Farleigh Hunderford: Morning* he displays an apparent ignorance of some of the rudiments of composition.

The lyrical mood which predominates in Ivon Hitchens's paintings is enhanced by sensitive and delightful use of colour. They are powerfully conceived and the disposition of the shapes is balanced and pleasing. He sees things mainly in terms of their planes and is successful in creating an illusion of space and recession.

M. SHIRLEY.

BOOKS RECEIVED

- Blackfriars*. Mgr J. O'Connor: Jerome Savonarola, 2/-.
Blackwell. R. W. Cruttrell: Virgil's Mind at work, 10/6d.
Bodley Head. Sinclair: The Divine Comedy III, 12/6d.
British Association for Jewish National Home. Nancy McKinnon: The Background of the London Conference, 6d.
Browne and Nolan. James Duff: St Augustine's Autobiography, 8s. 6d.
Burns Oates. John C. Heenan: Letters from Rush Green, 8s. 6d.
Cambridge University Press. David Daube: Studies in Biblical Law, 21s.; Leonard Hodgson: Biblical Theology and the Sovereignty of God, 1s. 6d.
Cape. C. Day Lewis: The Poetic Image, 8s. 6d.; The Scot in History, 12s. 6d.
Catholic Social Guild. V. Crawford: Frederick Ozanam, 2s. 6d.
Cerf. P. Nautin: Je Crois à l'Esprit Saint, 5s. 6d.; Archives d'Histoire Dominicaine; 7s.
Chronique Social de France. Joseph Folliet: Notre Ami Marius Gonin, 250fr.
Clarke. Cornelius van Thil: The New Modernism, 21s.
Clonmore and Reynolds. M. M. Xavier Gwynn, S.H.C.J.: From Hunting Field to Cloister, 8s. 6d.