

Reformation they meant something beyond that. Again, one is tempted to ask why the conservatives of Henry VIII's reign should so confidently have regarded heresy as sedition and orthodoxy as its antidote, when the Catholic fifteenth century had been so greatly disturbed. Had the early Tudors really done their work of consolidation so well that their achievement led their subjects to forget the past? Finally, a fuller discussion of the Protestant reaction in the last year of Henry's reign would have been valuable. The problem is relegated to a footnote, rather undeservedly.

The volume is equipped with five appendices, the last two of which are especially valuable, giving the academic and ecclesiastical status of all the bishops of the period; there is a bibliography of printed books (which disappointingly omits Fr Philip Hughes's recent work) and an excellent index. On page 108, note 11, 'Magdalene' should be so spelt, and on page 200, note 41, 'Henry VIII' should of course be read for 'Henry VII'.

THE TUDOR AGE. By A. J. Williamson. (Longmans; 25s.)

This is an honest and very competent text-book of the period 1485-1603. Political and economic history are treated in detail, and excellent pages are, in particular, devoted to the Navy, and to the oceanic enterprises of the sixteenth century. Constitutional history is sadly neglected, so that the reader loses a total view of the development and significance of the period; and strangely enough, for all the economic pre-occupations of the book, the vital changes inside English society in these years are rather scantily discussed. It is perhaps to be expected that the literary and intellectual background should be wholly neglected, although religious history, if told without much enthusiasm, is given very fair treatment.

Mr Williamson has very properly avoided controversial judgments, but rather refers the reader to more detailed or partisan works; and similarly, while he has incorporated the latest research into his book, he has been laudably tentative in his approach to new theories that have yet to prove themselves. Altogether, Mr Williamson's book can be safely recommended as an introduction to Tudor history.

There is an excellent table of contents, a good index, and a short bibliography. In future editions, the books and articles referred to in footnotes might well also be listed at the end.

T. G. I. HAMNETT

STUDIES IN STUART WALES. By A. H. Dodd. (University of Wales Press; 15s.)

In these six studies Professor A. H. Dodd has given us a masterly survey of what is to a great extent an untilled field. To the general