

police resources of the government are sufficient to keep the peasant masses inert.

Dr Dallin is particularly interesting in his treatment of the system of slave labour. In origin it combined Western ideas of corrective treatment with the penal tradition of Tsarist Russia: today it provides that reservoir of mobile labour which a materialist industrialism demands. On page 127 there is a notably revolting quotation from an English journalist. 'It was at Ryazan that we saw something which, had I seen it at home, would have filled me with indignation and disgust, but which, because its victims seemed not to care or object, was no concern of mine.' He then describes a convoy of women prisoners. Dr Dallin gives his readers the various estimates of the amount of slave labour at the disposal of the Russian state. Polish estimates suggested fifteen million. Another report says: 'Soviet officials contradicted sharply the statement that the figure was above twenty million, but they did not object to a figure within the limit of twenty million'. The section on slave labour is the most important part of the book, and its social and economic implications deserve careful consideration.

T. CHARLES EDWARDS.

WORLD OFF DUTY (Contact Publications; 5s Od.)

The latest Contact book surveys, with all the technical skill we have come to expect of this brilliant series, the use of leisure. Mass-Observation penetrates into the mysteries of 'Saturday night' in a hundred homes, the career of Thomas Cook is considered, reports of holidays come from Guatemala and the Isle of Wight, from Cyprus and the Alban Hills. Miss Sackville-West analyses the pleasures of travel and Arturo Barea is provocative about the Spanish mind. Disparate elements coalesce in the glossy pattern, streamlined but saved from perverseness by the observant drawings of Edward Bawden and Osbert Lancaster. You may disagree with some of the opinions: too clever, too sure, too brightly in the know. But in a world of seedy substitutes here is a book that is quite simply a joy to look at. And even the advertisements are a sight for eyes sore with austerity, and probably explain why a *de luxe* model costs only five shillings.

I.E.

IS THE CATHOLIC CHURCH ANTI-SOCIAL? Coulton v. Lunn. (Burns Oates; 12s. 6d.)

No, Cassius, No: think not thou noble Roman,
That ever Brutus will go bound to Rome.
He bears too great a name.

(*Julius Caesar*, v. 1.)

It must have been in such a spirit that Dr Coulton entered upon his last controversy, and the outcome, this book, is a Philippi in its cross purposes and its suicidal tactics. For the title bears no very obvious connection with the contents, in that irrelevancies are frequent and omissions are notable. But the general policy adopted