

Parliament, supported by the massive integrity of Laud and Strafford. Dr Mathew, continuing in this volume his study of *The Jacobean Age*, and enlarging upon his Ford Lectures on *The Social Structure in Caroline England*, has attempted to give the period its proper proportions. This he has done by setting out the relationship between the Caroline world and the Europe of Richelieu, Gustavus Adolphus and Urban VIII—what Dr Mathew calls the Tridentine world. He shows convincingly how very tenuous were the connections of the island and the continent, even though the influence of Henrietta Maria over her husband was steadily increasing. This insular detachment gives Dr Mathew excellent scope for his supreme talent in detecting and disengaging the different strands in the English culture, the steady growth away from the vestiges of feudalism, which Lord William Howard still recalled at Naworth, towards the great Whig families and the Tory squirearchy. The Church of England receives a very careful and sensitive treatment, and one of Dr Mathew's many valuable judgments is that the opposition to the Laudian bishops was to the sacerdotal rather than the sacramental character of their policy. It is impossible, without extensive quotation, to do justice to the width of Dr Mathew's view or the care with which he bases his conclusions upon contemporary documents. Naturally he has not overdrawn his pictures of the greater figures like the King, Laud or Strafford, but many subsidiary portraits stand out, like those of Sir Thomas Roe or Bishop Williams of Lincoln, looking to the past, and Falkland and Dr Wilkins looking to the future. There is a delightful aside on St Francis of Sales and a sketch of the merging scientific world with talk of frogmen and flights to the moon. Typical of the whole is the charming rencontre of old Archbishop Abbot in his coach with Lords Arundel and Maltravers on Banstead Downs: 'My lord's grace took occasion to congratulate unto both my Lord Maltravers' brave and hopeful progeny of three sons and a daughter; and so they parted. That was how England had been ruled, the great bland ease at the coach window.'

PAUL FOSTER, O.P.

BIOGRAPHICAL STUDIES. (Arundel Press, Bognor; twice-yearly, 8s. 6d.; by subscription only.)

The standard Catholic historical reference books are now almost museum pieces. Gillow's *Bibliographical Dictionary* appeared in 1885-8, and the last volume (comprising half the alphabet) was, through no fault of the author, quite unworthy of its predecessors. Foley's *Records* is earlier still, and is ill-arranged and full of inaccuracies. The scholarly volumes edited by Fr John Morris, S.J., are more reliable, but they were never designed as reference books. Since the appearance of these

works a vast amount of original material has been published. The volumes of the Historical Manuscripts Commission and the many calendars published by the Stationery Office, the local records published by various country record societies, and above all the forty-five volumes of the Catholic Record Society have added enormously to our knowledge of post-Reformation Catholic history. The task of absorbing all this newly-provided detail into our works of reference is a formidable one: the problem of publishing such a revision is an insoluble one. Hence *Biographical Studies*. The joint editors are A. F. Allison of the British Museum and D. M. Rogers of the Bodleian, and their intention is to publish materials that will fill up some of the *lacunae*, and correct some of the errors in our existing reference books. To reduce costs this work is duplicated, and subscribers receive two issues yearly, each of eighty pages, for the modest sum of 8s. 6d. In this first number Mr Allison compiles a bibliography of Fr Henry Garnet, S.J., which makes Gillow's account completely out of date. Mr Rogers' article on John Abbot (the first name in Gillow) is a good example of the wealth of detail, about a comparatively obscure writer, that is now available. Other articles treat of the eighteenth century: the Manhoods of Finchley, the Berkeleys of Spetchley, and others. Those who possess Gillow and Foley would do well to subscribe to this enterprising venture, and slowly bring these time-honoured reference books up to date.

G.A.

A HISTORY OF THE POLITICAL PHILOSOPHERS. By George Catlin. (Allen and Unwin; 30s.)

The student and general reader is already blessed with a number of good histories of political thought, like Dunning's *Political Theories*, Sabine's *History of Political Theory*, and for England the various volumes in the Home University Library, but this new work of Mr Catlin's (new in England, having already been published in the U.S.A. in 1939) is a valuable addition to their number because it sets the thought of various political philosophers from Plato to Laski against the background of their time. Its eight hundred pages make it a veritable encyclopedia of political thought, and it is an encyclopedia that it must be judged, i.e. on its proportions, balance and omissions.

The first impression that the reader receives from the whole book is the way in which more and more space is given to individuals the nearer Mr Catlin approaches the contemporary. Thus half the book takes us from Confucius (500 B.C.) to Bakunin via Plato, Aristotle, the Middle Ages, Hobbes, Locke, the American and French Revolutions, and the Utilitarians. The second half covers the last hundred and fifty years or so, from Rousseau to Hitler via Hegel, the Post-Hegelians, Marx, Kautsky, Lenin, Trotsky and Stalin, Laski and Strachey, and