

different values in different parts of the world. Impatience with the nuisance thus caused led the French Revolutionaries to make a new start with the metre, a measurement which, though possessing the great mathematical advantage of the decimal system, had no sanction in the human body (originally it was one forty-millionth of the meridian of the world through Paris). Thus it happened that in our modern world we have come to be torn between two warring linear scales, neither of which deserves unqualified approval.

Le Corbusier is apparently resigned to the continued use of these two scales—at least for the time being; but proposes instead the use of a system of proportion which can be practised in either scale and which is based, on the one hand on the human body (to be precise, on the human body of a six-foot London policeman), and on the other on the Golden Mean (i.e. the division of a measure in such a way that the smaller part is to the larger as the larger is to the whole).

It is not possible to do justice to this idea in a review. Le Corbusier has tried out his system with resolute consistency on all the projects which come his way—projects which vary from the design of packing-cases for fruit to the planning grid for new cities. We in this country are concerned with the same basic problems but, characteristically, we approach them from the other end. In place of making a 'sublime election' we prefer—at least in the sphere of architecture and building—to record the factors which have a bearing on measured parts in the hope that considerations of the practical order will provide us with the key. But it is by no means certain that we are right.

LANCE WRIGHT

FINANCIAL JUSTICE. By J. F. L. Bray, PH.D. (Aquinas Paper No. 22, Blackfriars Publications; 2s.)

Financial justice is not a specific form of justice, but must needs fall within the context of one or other of the known kinds of general or particular justice. The paper is concerned to show, by a display of statistics, the injustices that are involved in practical applications of capitalism. The three main headings are: I, Interest; II, Creation of Money; and III, Profits. The inexpert reader may be forgiven if the findings appear to him inconclusive, and do not point to any constructive remedy. Because money as a medium of exchange is unfruitful, it does not follow that in its secondary use as an instrument of production it is equally fruitless. (cf. Aquinas, 2a-2ae, 78, I, 6.) Again, the sharing of profits in a partnership is not to be identified with money-lending for gain. In Church Law certain monies must be fruitfully invested. All interest-bearing is not therefore in principle against justice, nor is the profit motive necessarily contaminated by greed.

A.F.