

to its author and scarcely calls for censure in him, since, unlike others who show it, he is not a professional historian.

Its value lies in the new light it directs on the Middle Ages, even as commonly known. The author is a distinguished thinker in his own field, and his legal interest has made him examine much that others would pass over. His book puts forward fruitful ideas, suggests new interest in well-worn material, and is on that account worth attention. It brings into the foreground some important aspects of the Middle Ages, not yet generally appreciated. If it has little of the rhetorical brilliance which gilds the loose generalisations of some history dons, it has a humility and sincerity which deserve respect.

ANTHONY ROSS, O.P.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BRITISH ACADEMY, 1946. (Oxford University Press; 40s.)

Volumes of the Academy's *Proceedings* inevitably appear, in these days, long after the separate publication and review of the papers which they contain. They include reports on scholarly work sponsored or assisted by the Academy, which bring home to the reader the grave difficulties in the way of sober, unspectacular research when it is not connected with atomic energy or an immediate social programme. They are at the same time inspiring in the evidence they give of scholarship's tenacity. In this context scholarship is historical, philosophical, literary and, occasionally, theological. The volume under notice contains a valuable paper by Dr J. Goronwy Edwards on *Edward I's Castle-Building in Wales* which illuminates the financial history of Edward's reign; Professor H. H. Price's essay, *Thinking and Representation*, already well known; Dr Inge on *Origen*, illustrating the tenacity of other things than learning, but always stimulating; *The Golden Word of King Lear*, by Professor Bickersteth; *Coleridge on Imagination and Fancy*, by Professor Willey; *The Birth of the Dutch Republic*, by Professor G. N. Clark; Dr Bueno de Mesquita on *Some Condottieri of the Trecento*; Dr T. H. Parry-Williams on *Welsh Poetic Diction*; and C. L. Wrenn on *The Poetry of Caedmon*.

Mention should be made especially of the *Obituaries* which are a feature of this and companion volumes. The present volume contains memoirs of Dr Robin Flower, Professor Z. N. Brooke, Lord Keynes, Professor John Laird, Sir John Clapham, Admiral Sir Herbert Richmond, Lord Atkin of Aberdovey and Sir Charles Oman; two of them being wonderfully gracious.

A.R.