

How much of this book, one must ask, is the last cartridge—and how splendidly it bangs!—of Edwardian liberalism, and how much does it display the shape of things to come? Twenty-five years from now, when the book is taken from the shelf by an intelligent young man, will the author's attitude to religion evoke a stifled yawn or a start of recognition? For what is both important and fascinating is precisely Professor Toynbee's attitude to religion. The book is not only an interpretation of religion from the standpoint of a gifted historian. It is much more: it is an intensely personal drama played against the backcloth of universal history. Hence its importance.

T. CHARLES EDWARDS

THE EARLY CHURCH: HISTORICAL AND THEOLOGICAL STUDIES. By Oscar Cullman. (S.C.M. Press; 25s.)

Dr Cullman's work has always been marked by three rare qualities: strong sanity, exact scholarship and the spirit of Christian charity. Any attempt by him to write the history of the early Church would be of exceptional interest. Unfortunately the title of this volume is slightly misleading. It consists of papers already published, barely linked together and of unequal value. They include a study on the origins of the Christmas feast which is an admirable example of *vulgarisation* in the good French sense of the term. An article on early Christianity and civilization is doomed to fail through lack of space—only fourteen pages are allotted to it, and there is no attempt to define civilization or to allow for regional or social differentiation among early Christians. There is a particularly stimulating essay on the meaning of '*regnum Christi*' which contains a convincing interpretation of the meaning of *exousia*. It includes two articles which will be of vital importance for any study of the development of Dr Cullman's thought: his 'Necessity and Function of Higher Criticism', first printed in 1949, and 'The Tradition', written three years ago, in which he makes his answer to P. Daniélou with consistent and characteristic courtesy. Even if the present volume does not add very greatly to our knowledge of the history of the early Church, it is an invaluable source for the history of early Cullman.

GERVASE MATHEW, O.P.

BYZANTIUM AND ISTANBUL. By Robert Liddell. (Cape; 25s.)

Mr Robert Liddell has written the best of all travel books on Aegean Greece perhaps partly because he cared for it so much. If now he fails with Constantinople it is perhaps primarily because he so much dislikes it.

The proportions are admirable; this is perhaps the only study of Constantinople to give equal emphasis on both Byzantine and Ottoman monuments and history. The standard of factual accuracy is, of course, high, though there is an occasional exasperating slip as when the portrait of John II Comnenos in Hagia Sophia is described as that of Constantine Porphyrogenitos who reigned two centuries earlier. It is a pity that so much of the Byzantine history is derived from Gibbon and so much of the Ottoman from the improbable court gossip of foreign travellers. Yet this is a travel-book, not a history, and the cardinal misfortune was that Mr Liddell seems to have lived in Pera instead of across the Horn in Istanbul itself. No living writer could have conveyed so perfectly the quality of modern Turkish life if only he had mingled with it. So much that he has written of Istanbul seems truer of Pera and of Galata. His description of Constantinople conveys all its squalor, more than all its decay, but nothing of its personality, and very little of its beauty. But in its mastery of phrase it provides still further evidence that Robert Liddell is one of the most significant of modern prose-writers.

GERVASE MATHEW, O.P.

THE PENGUIN ATLAS. Edited by J. S. Keates. (Penguin Books; 10s.)

This beautifully produced book has been issued 'to meet the needs of every reader who requires simple, legible maps at a convenient size'. It may satisfy readers who simply want to see where a place is, but will be of little use to students of geography. There are several atlases available, from Messrs Bartholomew, Philips, and the Oxford University Press, which give fuller and more valuable information in convenient shape, and at similar or only slightly greater cost. Nevertheless there is one feature of this atlas which will recommend it to many bookshelves, the fact that place-names within a country are spelt in the form which is official there, or in an accepted English transliteration. So we find Livorno and Firenze instead of Leghorn and Florence on the map of Italy. The index gives the more familiar form with its official equivalent and the necessary reference. But this only works one way; the official form is indexed without an English equivalent. For many readers this will raise complications. Unless their previous geographical knowledge is fairly good will they recognize Krung Thep, Rizhskiy Zaliv, Iskenderun, and Ostfriesische Inseln, as Bangkok, The Gulf of Riga, Alexandretta, and the East Frisian Islands? A useful list of geographical equivalents might be expanded by adding, for example, *selva*, *haf* and *wadi*, all of which appear in the atlas.

ANTHONY ROSS, O.P.