

Mrs. Fitzherbert which appeared a few months ago, and must be read in conjunction with it. Its own interest is not very great; frankly, it is a little disappointing. Mrs. Fitzherbert was not a particularly gifted letter-writer, and as a matter of fact there are here more letters written to her than by her. But all are valuable historical matter, and illustrate her Biography very usefully. Most of them belong to the period of her retirement and serene old age, and manifest the extreme affection and veneration entertained for her by the royal family and by an immense circle of friends. Many of her correspondents already live for us in the pages of Greville and Creevey, and speak here once again in their own inimitable way. Perhaps the most graphic letters are those of the eldest Fitzclarence, which describe the death of his father King William IV, and show how one too often regarded as a mere elderly buffoon could pass away with the most perfect dignity, so that nothing became him life so much as his leaving it.

The Letters fill about two-thirds of the book; the remainder is made up of the 'Connected Papers.' Of these, the adventures of the papers vindicating Mrs. Fitzherbert's good name and establishing the fact of her perfectly canonical marriage, papers which she carefully deposited in Coutt's Bank and which now repose in the royal archives at Windsor Castle, are of extraordinary interest. Had the Duke of Wellington had his way they would long ago have perished in the flames; the deliberate inaction of Queen Victoria, for whose perusal they were temporarily extracted, led to their fresh seclusion in the Bank vaults, the doors of which were closed to all searchers for over fifty years; but they were eventually brought to light by the direct action of King Edward VII, through whose chivalrous acceptance of these documents (says Mr. Leslie) Mrs. Fitzherbert's character and position have been cleared for all time.

ROBERT BRACEY, O.P.

NOTICES

FREEDOM UNDER GOD. By Fulton J. Sheen. (Milwaukee, Bruce Publishing Co.; London, Coldwell; 11s. 3d.)

Frankly I expected something overblown, but I found instead the argument careful and the style controlled. The blurb says that it is a bombshell tossed into the enemy's camp to explode that incredible tenet of Communism—that man has greater freedom under its promises. Well, as some of us know,

the best bombs don't go off, but leave you thinking; so in a sense the blurb is true.

These essays on the social nature of human freedom are useful in our days of dying liberalism and growing dictatorship. Freedom from something implies freedom for something, and when you think twice this is gained neither by the irresponsible individual nor by the irresponsible State. People are realising more and more that the Papal Encyclicals on the subject are not just the musings of an elderly and respected ecclesiastic, to be listened to only on Sundays. As Mgr. Sheen says: 'To leave justice, love, charity, human rights, and duties, all of which belong to religion, out of the secular order is like leaving the soul out of the body. To leave the soul out of the body is not to have a soulless body but dissolution; to leave religion out of society is not to have a secular society but chaos.'

T.G.

EIGHTEENTH CENTURY ENGLISH LITERATURE, A BIBLIOGRAPHY.

By J. E. Tobin, Ph.D. (New York, Fordham University Press; \$2.)

This book may be of considerable practical use to students of the eighteenth century. It will help them to construct a historical background for their period, to grapple with its religion, philosophy, and social thought, and to become familiar with its criticism, journalism, and drama. At the same time, it puts at their service an immense number of bibliographies of individual authors. Our one real criticism—that the book is by no means exhaustive—is frankly anticipated by the compiler in his Preface, where he says 'Without doubt, too much has been omitted.' If we take the field of Eighteenth Century Travel Books alone, it is surprising to find in a work issuing from a Catholic University no mention made of either Henry Swinburne or of John Chetwode Eustace, perhaps the two best known Catholic names in that department of our literature.

MURDER IN A NUNNERY. By Eric Shepherd. (Sheed & Ward; 6s.)

The literary mode, perfected by Miss Dorothy Sayers, of using inside specialist knowledge to provide the material for a 'thriller' has surely by now exhausted its possibilities. For Mr. Shepherd has obviously used, and used well, such knowledge of Convent life and personalities to clothe his dark plot of murder and its detection. If he has overdrawn all the

characters somewhat, that is but fictional licence; he has succeeded in portraying, as an integral part of his excellent story, the actual, though largely unsuspected, balanced saneness of typical convent life. Indeed it is only in the case of extraneous portraiture that he fails to be convincing; the gardener, Turtle, for example, reproduces so faithfully the speech of Sairey Gamp that we feel his name should have been 'Harris,' and the Cockney Detective-Sergeant is too gauche and rude to be a true Cockney; but the Inspector is very vivid and likable. However the defects are minor ones and the volume is well worth even the comparatively high price put on it.

H.J.C.

ROMAN FOUNTAIN. By Hugh Walpole. (Macmillan; 8s. 6d.)

Mr. Walpole's established reputation as a novelist and an attractive paper jacket will doubtless secure for this book a ready sale. It was written as a result of the author's being sent to Rome by an American Press Syndicate to 'cover' the burial of Pope Pius XI and the election and coronation of his successor. Those who buy the book in the hope of getting a full and detailed account of those events will be disappointed. On the other hand they will learn a great deal about Mr. Walpole himself and about his earlier life and experiences—all quite pleasantly and amusingly told. When the author does bring himself to write his autobiography—for which, he tells us, we must wait twenty years—he will at any rate have much of the material ready to hand in the present work.

A.L'E.

WHAT IS CORPORATIVE ORGANIZATION? By Richard Ares, S.J.
(Central Bureau Press, St. Louis.)

In all, two hundred and eight questions and answers on corporative organization, for this is a catechism, ranging from the nature of society to the pre-corporative elements in Quebec at the present time. The work is divided into five parts, General Principles of Social Organization; Vocational Groups; The Corporative Doctrine; The Church and Corporative Organization; Corporatives—Past and Present.

Though it is a welcome addition to the scanty English literature on the subject and should be of value to study circles, one must warn them not to expect too much, as in many places the answers to questions are merely quotations from *Quadragesimo Anno* without commentary. Moreover it is liable to be con-

fusing to find all recent controversies side-stepped and a section on Italian Corporatism included as belonging quite naturally. Anyway, it might be a good thing if the word 'corporative' were abandoned altogether. It is too much like corporate and co-operative.

J.F.

REVIEW OF PERIODICALS

'Survival for a hundred years is sufficiently remarkable, but to flourish at the end of a hundred years as you do is a great achievement.' So writes the Archbishop of Birmingham on the occasion of the centenary of *The Tablet*, and His Grace's words will be widely echoed. *The Tablet* is, indeed, anything but senile at the close of its first century, and under its present editorship it has become one of the most vigorous, well-informed and thoughtful of the few remaining weekly reviews in this country, with which, in shedding the religious sectarianism which long characterised it, it has entered into serious competition. Never an exclusively 'sacristy' journal, it is now less so than ever. Its political attitudes and opinions, on the other hand, are unblushingly partisan, and it may be questioned whether they always represent the views of more than an able and influential minority of English Catholics. But as such, and because of the sincerity and persuasiveness with which they are usually set forward, they deserve consideration and respect even where they cannot command assent; and even their opponents may rejoice that in one of the very few organs of intelligent Rightist opinion they should be leavened with a firmly Catholic outlook. We wish *The Tablet* a long life under its present administration. The centenary issue is a gala one, full of good things from the pens of many of the most distinguished of contemporary English Catholic writers.

The April *Purpose* was a valuable 'Land' number, with important articles on 'The Soil,' 'Land Ownership' (by Dick Stokes, M.P.), 'Agricultural Possibilities and Prospects,' and 'The Village.' It also includes a characteristic and suggestive article by Middleton Murry on 'Imagination and Education'; particularly welcome is his warning, in connection with the recent *Times* correspondence, that 'the endeavour to enforce the perfunctory performance now called religious education would merely make society more deliberately atheistic than it is.'

Maritain has contributed to *The Commonweal* a noteworthy series on 'Europe and the Federal Idea,' maintaining, *inter*