

to listen to more of the music itself. The book concludes with the usual and useful list of works, and a 'discography'. It has been excellently produced and printed, and deserves well.

ERIC TAYLOR.

THE NEW LONDON LETTER WRITER, CONTAINING THE COMPLEAT ART OF CORRESPONDING WITH EASE, ELEGANCE AND PERSPICUITY AS NOW PRACTISED BY ALL PERSONS OF RESPECTABILITY. By Samuel Johnson, M.A. Foreword and Decorations by Averil Mackenzie-Grieve. (Golden Cockerell Press; £1 10s. 0d.)

The Foreword to this book of portentous title informs us that it is a reproduction (or rather an abridgement) of a manual, bound in marbled covers and costing but a shilling, which was first published in 1794 and bore upon its title-page the great name of Samuel Johnson. At first sight we were inclined to suspect a 'Fake', but apparently this is not so. The present Editor tells us that there is a copy of a seventh edition in the British Museum library; and conjectures that the author may have assumed a fictitious name as a draw for the public. The volume under review is, as its Colophon states, an *edition de luxe*, limited to 500 numbered copies, printed in Caslon type on mould-made paper and priced according to binding. The whimsical and grotesque 'decorations' (modern) are woodcuts quite in the baroque style of the period, although some of the modish ladies depicted are of an excruciating hideousness which hardly seems necessary.

The Letters give, it is claimed, a lively picture of eighteenth-century life, and much solid instruction in dealing with 'Trade, Affection, Courtship, Economy, Sickness, Death'. Their language is quaint, formal and stilted, with now and again some coarse humour after the fashion of Smollett and Sterne, and a modicum of Richardson-like sentiment underlying the whole. Just, as the modest producer claims, a *pot-pourri* of faded colours, musty fragrance, sweetness and tang. An elegant trifle not without interest and charm.

ROBERT BRACEY, O.P.

A CRAFTSMAN'S ANTHOLOGY. By A. Romney Green. (Allen and Unwin; 12s. 6d.)

Mr Romney Green is owed a debt of gratitude by craftsmen in wood in particular and by all who love good work in general. These will welcome the opportunity this anthology gives to learn from whence he drew inspiration and recreation, and gather if they can some clue to the philosophy which guided a master craftsman and reformer.

The object of this anthology, says the author in his introduction, is 'that of finding memorable expression for the best living tendencies of thought'. And again, 'I have not assumed that the "best" tendencies of thought need be mutually consistent'. It will be well for the reader to keep this latter in mind when appraising

the book as a whole. It covers an exceptionally wide field and is wisely divided into sections. Seventeen in all. The reader who cannot select from among these a meadow in which to browse contentedly, reflect, or find stimulant for thought or action must be difficult to cater for. Curiously, Prof. Lethaby and Amanda Coomaraswamy are absent from the great company assembled.

The make-up, paper and printing are excellent.

GEO. M.

THE GUIDE TO CATHOLIC LITERATURE, 1948. Edited by Walter Romig. (W. Romig; \$3.75.)

Though rather more costly than the usual products of the Stationery Office, this *Guide* with its green paper covers looks like a Government publication. The controverted question about what constitutes Catholic literature is faced in the sub-title which states that the *Guide* is 'An author-title-subject index in one straight alphabetical order, with biographical and critical notes and references, of books and pamphlets by Catholics or of particular Catholic interest, published originally or in revised edition, in any language and in any country, during the year January 1 to December 1, 1948'.

The *Guide* is, of course, American. Where else than in the United States could one hope to find such pains-taking research, such amassing of detail in such a field? In every sense the *Guide* is catholic. Learned writings, doctorate theses and the like rub shoulders with such works as *A Spoonful of Honey*, *Laughter from Downstairs*, and J. P. DiMaggio's *Baseball for Everyone*.

Dominican writers are well represented, and there are many critical extracts from book reviews in this periodical.

Mr Romig deserves great praise for editing and publishing this informative and diverting *Guide*.

KIERAN MULVEY, O.P.

THE BRITISH PRESS. By Robert Sinclair. (Home and Van Thal; 8s.6d.)

With 30 years' experience of professional journalism the author combines an objective view of that important calling. The combination is sufficient to make his criticism of the Press very valuable. He examines often-claimed freedoms of thought and speech as exercised by the British Press. In order to reach a studied judgment on this vital point he takes the reader through the responsibilities and machinery which lead to the 'news' appearing on the printed page. A rather disillusioned footnote on p. 224 vouches for the honesty of the author who has to withdraw his original statement that politics do not influence the reports of a journalist. It is a 'frightening' thought, as he says, that politics now play a part in the reporter's news.

CONRAD PEPLER, O.P.