

ing), the Bibliography, the Commentary, and the Index. (Professor G. L. Brook's Glossary is published with the text.) The text has undergone some revision and has been more consistently paragraphed. The basis of it is still the manuscript discovered in 1934 by Mr W. F. Oakeshott among the books of the Fellows' Library of Winchester College, a manuscript roughly contemporary with, but more authentic than Caxton's edition. I have emended it where necessary with the aid of the latter and of Malory's sources. . . . In this as in the Clarendon Press edition an attempt has been made to give the work the appearance of a modern novel.'

This attempt has produced a book which is easy to handle and pleasant to read. The pleasure is increased by the retention of the old spelling which is so essential to the flavour and 'style' of the tales.

A.D.M.

HERDER ART SERIES (Christmas; The Life of Mary; Enchanting Trifles; Saint Francis; Motherhood; Childhood; Angels; The Year of our Lord). Distributed by Interbook, 12 Fitzroy Street, W.1. (6s. 6d. each volume).

This new German series of illustrated books is now available in an English edition, and should meet with an enthusiastic welcome. Each book has 25 to 30 plates, of which several are in colour, and has an introduction by an expert critic. The emphasis of the series is on the human aspect of art, and the choice of illustrations is deliberately designed to please. It may seem arbitrary to group paintings according to a subject, and *Enchanting Trifles*, for instance, is really only a lucky dip of amusing details from well-known pictures. But here are books that have charm and humanity, and occasionally, specialized as is their German taste, we are introduced to such unfamiliar works as the Salzburg Master's 'Portrait of a Child' or frescoes from the parish church at Ahrweiler.

I.E.

SOUTH AFRICAN MISSIONS, 1800-1950. An Anthology compiled by Horton Davies, and R. H. W. Shepherd. (Nelson; 12s. 6d.)

This anthology is compiled by two well-known men, of academic distinction and of eminence in church affairs, who know South Africa and its problems and outlook well. This internal knowledge is evident in the nature of the extracts and their arrangement, in which that which might seem controversial against the background of South African race-relations is avoided, as also that which might lead to misunderstanding outside the Union.

The second compiler, the Principal of the Lovedale Missionary

Institution of the Presbyterian Church, gives an excellent though brief introductory survey. The only point to which exception might be taken is the statement that Bantu and Europeans entered the present Union more or less simultaneously, since later researches into records and language suggest that the Bantu were there much earlier.

The selections, all from missionary writings and especially from the earlier ones of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, tell of the life of the Bushmen, Hottentots and Bantu as seen by the missionaries, of climate, plants and animals, of domestic and civil life, of missionaries, mission-stations and missionary methods and results. Often simple and uncritical, often also illuminating and profound, in some passages highly moving, these extracts give a good general view of the missionaries and their work.

Except for two extracts relating to Father Bernard Huss of Mariannhill there are no references to Catholic missions. This is partly due to the late arrival of the Catholics in the mission field in South Africa (outside Moçambique) and partly to the lack of published material, except in Catholic periodicals not easily available, and even then scanty. There exists, however, a vast amount of interesting Catholic material, if it could be searched out and assembled. Up till now the Catholic missionaries have been too busy with their immediate work to write down their own history.

OSWIN MAGRATH, O.P.

AFRICAN AFTERTHOUGHTS. By Sir Philip Mitchell, G.C.M.G., M.C. (Hutchinson; 18s.)

Sir Philip Mitchell will have his part in any future history of East Africa, for he had his share in the remoulding of German East Africa into the Tanganyika Territory and he was successively Governor of Uganda and of Kenya in what may prove to have been the most crucial episodes in the history of them both. Certainly in Uganda the present Governor is only reaping what Sir Philip sowed and it is tenable that in Kenya the present Governor is only governing what Sir Philip reaped.

His memoirs have therefore a real importance for African history and may come in time to rank as a primary document. Historians of the American Revolution are only now beginning to realize the importance of the memoranda kept by General Gage when he was Governor of New York.

Certainly *African Afterthoughts* can dispel any future myth of British tyranny in East Africa. If Sir Philip was a tyrant it was purely in the Greek sense that he held rule without any hereditary right and without being the choice of those he governed. He has written what is essentially a 'nice' book; it consists almost entirely of anecdotes and none