

CORRESPONDENCE

reviewing the facts to be untrue. As to painting in relation to architecture, yes; but surely this is because the painters are not allowed to co-operate with the architect.

Mural painting cannot develop unless the painter, whose gift lies in this direction, is allowed to *paint on walls*. The problem is one quite apart from the easel picture, and can in no great degree be tackled in a studio. So, unless the architect will make a place for the painter and insist on a painter who is also a workman, the general taste for those 'charming' and respectably lifeless posters, usually called mural paintings, will continue and we shall have to keep pigs for a living.

Granted, the problem of a painting on a wall has practically ceased to be understood. Knowing how to paint frescoes does not mean understanding what can be put on a wall; for the medium of expression is but the matter of the second birth, as it were. The matter in which the concept is formed, is all the knowledge the artist has through sight; and it is the more severe judgment needed in its selection, that forms the mural painter's greatest problem.

None the less, it seems a pity that this great branch of our culture should be allowed to die for lack of encouragement, just at the time when it would be possible to make a synthesis of the two great traditions of mural painting and so form a twentieth century school equal in knowledge and creative ability to any that have gone before. But the twentieth century, especially the Catholic part, is afraid to create or encourage creation. Why?

Yours faithfully,

CONSTANCE MARY ROWE.

AFTER FOUR HUNDRED YEARS

To the Editor of BLACKFRIARS

SIR,—The excellent review of *Après quatre cents ans* in your February number set me hunting for a copy of the book, and as I have only just received it after weeks of enquiry, I think that many of your readers will be glad to know that in Swiss money it costs 3 fr. 50. In Belgian exchange it costs 33 fr., and the Librairie Desbarax, 24 rue de Namur, Louvain, will supply it for 29.70, plus 3.50 postage. It is truly a beautiful volume in matter and in form. Every 'apologist' should have a copy. Thanking Father Tindal-Atkinson for bringing it to the notice of your readers,

I am gratefully yours,

IVOR DANIEL, P.P.

Catholic Rectory, Pembroke Dock.