

indicates, not the end product, but the starting point. This is in fact primarily the witness of history to man's use of prayer and the various forms it takes. Thus the starting point is essentially the concrete reality (though the use of examples taken from Homer and Virgil seems somewhat contrived). And then from here, true (at least in intention) to his phenomenological principles which demand a personal engagement transcending the crude distinction between objective and subjective, the author attempts to let the nature

of the reality reveal itself. The whole technique is heavily handled, and it gives the feeling of a large wooden structure being trundled along with creaks and groans. A less self-conscious and more spontaneous phenomenology would have served the author more satisfactorily, and given witness, in a way which this book does not, to the great value of this philosophical (or theological) approach.

Giles Hibbert, O.P.

Notices

THE MASTER MUSICIANS SERIES (*Dent*) has long established itself as an authoritative introduction to the great composers. Each volume provides both biography and criticism, and musical examples and well-chosen illustrations add to the value of a series that is at once scholarly and of interest to the ordinary music-lover. Recently reprinted are *Purcell* by J. A. Westrup (18s), *Bach* by Eva and Sydney Grew (15s), *Handel* by Percy M. Young (15s) and *Beethoven* by Marion M. Scott (15s).

NEW PENGUINS include Rebecca West's *The Meaning of Treason* (5s), a contemporary classic, written with her incomparable lucidity, and now

including fresh chapters on Blake, Vassall and the Ward affair, and Hugh Thomas's *The Spanish Civil War* (15s), already established as the definitive study of the most complex and far-reaching of conflicts. In Penguin Classics, J. F. Webb has translated three *Lives of the Saints* (4s), namely *The Voyage of St Brendan*, Bede's *Life of Cuthbert* and Eddius's *Life of Wilfrid*, the three providing a delightful triptych of sixth and seventh century monastic and missionary life. *Crime in a Changing Society* (3s 6d) is a Pelican Original by Howard Jones and discusses the methods and aims of criminology, summarizing the statistics and sociological information available so as to give the general reader a clear picture of a subject that is too often shrouded in a technical jargon.