

A vitreous region, like a sea asleep,
 Crystalline, convex, tideless and congealed,
 Profounder far than Tuscarora deep.

It recalls the remote and cold eruptions of the distant view in the *Virgin of the Rocks*. The mood is not, of course, sustained or constant, and we shall expect him again to charm away the night-fears with an inconsequential song. Yet even in the group of rhymes and verses, which happily gives a place to the faultless *Silver*, we find a piece like *John Mouldy* to remind us that the primaeval ooze, beyond human extinction, is never far away.

A.S.

THE PLAIN AND THE ROUGH PLACES. By Mary Gough. (Chatto and Windus; 15s.)

Mrs Michael Gough writes with vivid charm of the five seasons in which she accompanied her husband on archaeological surveys in Cilicia. She is able to convey not only something of the atmosphere of modern Turkey but her own sense of enjoyment. Her photographs are admirably selected and her prose lively. Few archaeologists have had so many fortunate experiences with Turkish officials, but then few have approached them with such confiding friendliness. The archaeological details provided are of course tantalizingly incomplete and misprints fairly frequent. Yet few modern travel-books have been so readable and none have conveyed a more attractive impression of the personality of the author.

G.M.

A CHRISTOLOGY FROM THE SERMONS OF ST VINCENT FERRER. Selected and translated by S.M.C. (Blackfriars Publications; 12s. 6d.)

The title of this book raises a hope that here will be revealed the secret of the astounding reputation of St Vincent Ferrer as a preacher. But the would-be revivalist is going to be disappointed. These sermons, covering the period from Advent to Pentecost, admirably translated, are not the finished article: they are notes or rough drafts. They are not even going to be a busy pastor's aid: their idiom will not do for this age. But there is one class of people for whom they will be a wonderful resource—those who have to give religious instruction to small children. St Vincent will relieve them of the labour of elaborating the early life of our Lord, for he supplies all the imaginative details in a spirit recalling that of medieval carols—interspersed with undiluted quotations from Aquinas! Perhaps it is asking for the impossible, but we should very much welcome in a second edition something in the way of notes, or at least an indication of which sermons are the saint's own notes, which the reports of his audience.

S.P.