

beauty against brains, Catholic against Protestant, tragic against successful, romantic against politic, Mary is almost the mirror-image of Elizabeth, all her characteristics reversed.

There was still more to it than that. Dame Edith has, as she was entitled to do, given us little more than the gorgeous colour and hideous corruption of the epoch. But what prevents this from being mere splendid confusion is the structure of European affairs, of which the colour and the cruelty were manifestations. The vast plot of the Reformation and Counter-Reformation informs the series of episodes which build up Dame Edith's book. The drama of Elizabeth's survival and Mary's destruction is not only part of this vital moment of history but is a decisive element in it. The triumph of the Counter-Reformation and the survival of Protestantism depended upon the retention of England by Elizabeth's government; and it was retained.

It is noticeable how, of the rival queens, it is Elizabeth who attracts the major share of Dame Edith's sympathy. The life of Mary belongs to a category, that of the doomed heroine, destroyed as much by her own internal forces as by circumstance. The character of Elizabeth is unique in its unpredictability, in its triumph of sheer personality, in its success achieved so very much by preventing anything drastic happening. The situation of Elizabeth on her accession in 1558 was precarious in the extreme, but for thirty years she put off the supreme crisis and during those years built herself up into the idol of her nation, exasperating but superb, a feminine masterpiece.

Dame Edith does not add anything essential to the imaginative portrait drawn by Lytton Strachey. She hardly touches upon the constitutional, cultural or religious developments of the reign. The book is, then, history seen by a poet, not as a fascinating map or diagram, but as an immediate affair of flesh and blood. It is the history of a queen seen as a woman, whose person as well as office was menaced by another woman, near in kin, perhaps dear in affection, equal in anointed rank, fearsome at liberty, a deadly peril in captivity. After eighteen years Elizabeth killed her but must pretend that it had not been her intention to destroy her mirror-image. Perhaps it was not only the ravages of age that caused Elizabeth to banish from her household all true mirrors for twenty years before her death.

PAUL FOSTER, O.P.

THE SCROLL OF THE WAR OF THE SONS OF LIGHT AGAINST THE SONS OF DARKNESS, edited with commentary and introduction, by Yigael Yadin; translated by Batya and Chaim Rabin; Oxford University Press; 63s.

This is an edition with full scholarship of one of the Dead Sea Scrolls, originally found in 1947 in the cave at Qumran now known as Q1. The book was first published in modern Hebrew in Jerusalem in 1955 (not 1957 as on the blurb). Professor Yadin is associate professor of archaeology at the Hebrew

University, Jerusalem, where his translator, Professor Rabin, is now also working, after having been responsible for the teaching of modern Hebrew at Oxford. The present book is a translation of Dr Yadin's introduction and commentary upon the text of the scroll, and also provides an English translation of the text.

The second part of the book (97 pages) is taken up with a critical edition of the Hebrew text of the scroll, with translation opposite and elaborate critical notes below. The editing of the Hebrew text is exemplary, with careful indications of gaps, and conjectured restorations with indications of the degree of certainty of the restoration.

The first part of the book (to p. 252) is occupied with introduction, and of particular interest is the main bulk of it which is concerned with a detailed study of the warfare described. Weapons and tactical manoeuvres are described in the scroll in the most precise terms, and Professor Yadin, who himself has had considerable military experience, has examined these very closely and related them to what is otherwise known of warfare in the first centuries B.C. and A.D. The findings of these military comparisons are tabulated on p. 245, and the finely balanced weight of evidence inclines the author to say that 'with all due reserve, we may perhaps conclude that DSW (sigla for Dead Sea—War) was composed after the Roman conquest (B.C. 63) and the death of Herod (B.C. 4)'. This particular scroll in fact throws no special light on the identity of the Qumran sect, but the author finds no disproof, nor any proof, that they were Essenes. The reason for this uncertainty is, he says on p. 246, that 'the material we now possess on the tenets and constitution of the scrolls sect far exceeds our information on any sect in the period under discussion'.

The subject is the Holy War which is expected, in which the Sons of Light, with the help of God and his angels will eventually defeat the Sons of Darkness. The text supplies minute regulations for the conduct of the battle near Jerusalem, as well as prayers and songs (of the same genre as the psalms) for the episodes of the war. The text is in classical Hebrew, with many references to the Old Testament, and a few interesting linguistic peculiarities, all of which receive due attention here. The plain scribal errors are noted, with a plate of facsimiles of the actual manuscript at those points.

SEBASTIAN BULLOUGH, O.P.

GENERATION OF GIANTS, by George H. Dunne, S.J.; Burns and Oates; 50s.

In 1582 St Francis Xavier had been dead for thirty years. He had brought the light of Christ to Japan, but died before he could do as much for China. The Portuguese had a trading post at Macao, a peninsula on the Chinese mainland, but were forbidden any but the slightest communication with the Chinese people, through Canton. In any case their interests were exclusively commercial. The Society of Jesus already well established in Japan was also in Macao,