

BLACKFRIARS

Allers' own, yet the **book now** has all the freshness and vitality of **Good Scouting**, and even some of its humour.

There is always a thrill in finding out the causes of familiar phenomena. That is the great value of this book. It gives some explanation of the principal manifestations, normal and abnormal, of childhood—the only child, the precocious child, the oldest and youngest child, the 'difficult' child, the reactions to school life, adolescence, and the various forces at work in the formation of character.

We recommend this book in its new form to all who have to deal with small children and children of school age.

G.A.

THE BREAKDOWN OF MONEY. An Historical Explanation. By Christopher Hollis. (Sheed & Ward; pp. 231; 4/6.)

This is certainly the best book on the subject which has yet been published in this country. Most text-books of Modern History are little less than a farce—in so far as their authors make little or no attempt to explain the real basic causes of political events. Vague phrases such as 'national prestige,' 'imperial expansion,' 'a place in the sun,' and 'the safeguarding of national interests' are not only useless but deceptive. This lack of intelligibility in the text-books is due to their complete neglect of monetary matters. They are in the main merely chronicles of political events.

Mr. Hollis's book is largely historical, that is, he sets out to give a straightforward historical account of the rise of the Money Power. 'I do not ask,' he says in the introduction, 'that the Schools should teach any private nostrums, whether my own or anybody else's. I only ask that they should teach facts, the truth and importance of which are alike admitted—the facts of what is our financial system and how it works.'

The rise to power of the Bank of England, the National Debt, Cobdenism with its free export of goods and capital, and results—Economic and Financial Imperialism are all clearly and vividly described. There are also four excellent chapters on India, the United States, post-war Germany and Spain. The chapter on Population is of especial value.

In discussing the remedy, Mr. Hollis is of course right in diagnosing a deficiency of purchasing power as being the root of the trouble, and both he and Mr. Gill—whom he quotes—are entirely justified in their dislike of a new 'economic man' who is to be solely a consumer, with perhaps a few dilettante artistic hobbies. He appears, however, to confuse the Douglas Credit theory with the private philosophies of some of its supporters. Actually Social Credit is simply a piece of mechanism

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and could be used **to** implement, as the Prime Minister would say, any type of Society, Catholic or Pagan.

Mr. Hollis's book will not only be indispensable to anyone wishing **to** understand modern history and contemporary politics; it will also be invaluable in that study and application of *Quadragesimo Anno*, to which every intelligent Catholic has **been** urged by the Pope himself. And this is a sufficient indication of its worth.

T.C.E.

I COMMIT TO THE FLAMES. By Ivor Brown. (Hamish Hamilton; pp. 240; 6/-.)

'Contemporary taste . . . is rationalistic where romantic values **are** natural and romantic where reason demands **to be** upheld.' **The cult** of the Coon, of King Kong, of dictatorial coloured shirts. . . It seems, alas! if we really **look into the** matter, that we are all extremely naughty. Should we indeed conduct the investigation under the exclusive tutelage of **Mr.** Ivor Brown we might be led to suspect that the guidance of reason is irretrievably a thing of the past, that all is over between us. Yet D. H. Lawrence was not merely a gentleman who thought that the only thinking worth talking about resides in the lower reaches of the abdomen; jazz is not entirely the worship of orgiastic and ape-like coons; disapprobation of democracy is not necessarily motivated by a weak desire to hold aloft be-shirted arms to a Myth Man, nor is psycho-analysis merely a wayward fancy for seeing untoward sexual significance in the way we go about our everyday occasions. Even, perhaps, in the horrid, unwholesome hell of Hollywood one may sometimes venture to discern a glimmer of hope. **Mr.** Ivor Brown repudiates any element of puritanism in his position, as, incidentally, he repudiates any sympathy with Roman Catholicism and (here being 'romantic where reason demands to be upheld') its 'bedizenments of myth and magic': his is the voice of reason crying in the Waste Land. Yet alike relatively (to carry conviction) and absolutely (to see the truth) it is a bad thing if we **can** find nothing but error in errors since in every error there is truth. And in any case, the Book of Life is the one book one cannot commit to the flames; one can only turn over a new leaf, and therein there is continuity. So, for example, the essential failure of Buchmanism is accurately diagnosed; **but how** much more valuable to go on to state its essential worth. And as tactics of persuasion how much more efficacious! But this is not to deny the value of the satirical onslaught: the book should administer a salutary jolt, not least to the partisans of intellectual laissez-faire, and recall the errant attention to a number of primary home-truths we are in danger of forgetting.

L.S.G.V.