

opponents of their declarations flock to the reconstructed exchange of ideas which salted the material comfort and beauty of the house in Bryanston Square. Such a symposium must unavoidably make room for digression; but, as Leslie Stephen once wrote of another philosophic speculation 'the book is redeemed by its digressions.' Is not all good talk digression? Is not Memory incurably tangential?

The result of this attempt at recapturing the thought and the intellectual adventure of two minds is a kind of consecutive annotated anthology. Even when direct quotation ceases, whole phrases are as packed with literary allusions as a Japanese poem.

A rose indeed, and budding once in a land of roses! Yet now only the spectre of a rose, whose fragrance haunts me still, now that the brief ballet of life is over and the memories of a day that is gone return in the firelight. But, if a spectre only, surely dancing yet, as the Blessed dance in the rich imagery of Dante's visions. Of such, as the poet assures us, the angels scent the sweetness in the celestial air as they pass like bees from petal to petal of the Great Rose of Heaven.'

This passage is chosen for its shortness—a quality so necessary in so brief a note on an almost inexhaustible mine of reference. A complete manual of notes on these happy incorporations might be made. Some book-haunting leisured reader may yet accomplish such a work. Meanwhile a learned and industrious scribe should be employed in tabulating an Index to this House for future editions, for which the tenderly evocative dust-jacket should be preserved or, better still, incorporated in the volume as an illustration or as end papers.

NAOMI ROYDE SMITH.

SOME COMPARISONS BETWEEN UNIVERSITIES. (Blackwell; 2s. 6d.)

This is a report of the second Educational Conference of the Association of University Professors and Lecturers of the Allied countries in Great Britain. It suffers in any case from its snippety composition (64 pages for speeches or parts of speeches by nearly thirty people). But apart from this it is melancholy reading—discussion of this and that element in British or foreign Universities with scarcely a hint of any directive principle, spiritual or intellectual. The prevailing gloom is a little relieved by remarks of some interest from Professor Sir Fred Clarke (Universities and teachers), Mr. Bruce Truscot (dons and students), Professor Sommerfelt (comparison between French and Norwegian Universities) and Professor Vermeil (Western Universities in relation to the state and society). But in general—from Newman to these eminent speakers, *quelle dégringolade!* The truest words spoken at the Conference seem to be those of Professor Saurat: 'At present we have no direction. We do not know what to do. We are just drifting.'

W.S.