

in this one. That may be a lot to ask at the price, but if I mistake not there *are* Penguins with maps. The English reader will find that he *needs* one.

A. E. H. SWINSTEAD.

SALUTE THE SOVIET. By Mrs. Cecil Chesterton. (Chapman and Hall; 15s.)

This is a very helpful and sympathetic account of social and economic conditions in Soviet Russia as Mrs. Cecil Chesterton observed them in three considerable visits; the first in 1930 and the last in 1939—when the shadow of coming events had already fallen on Moscow and Premier Stalin was working against time to defeat the threatened Nazi invasion. The personal observation is supplemented, but not excessively, by relevant statistics. Relations of parents and children in home life; ardent desire for education—gratified by new schools and increasing numbers of teachers, with an amazing decrease in illiteracy; conditions in factories and on farms; the return to a more stable attitude to marriage; and above all the end of persecution of religion—these things are carefully reported. Mrs. Chesterton writes vividly of the worship she attended in Kiev Cathedral and in an obscure Church in Moscow. (At the same time the Communist party, small in numbers but the controlling body in the State, is officially as secularist as was the French Government in the time of Combes). Moslems, Armenian and Orthodox Christians, Catholics and evangelical protestants, all have their various places of worship; and the latest returns give the Orthodox churches in Russia at 1,744; Orthodox priests at 2,309.

A pleasant anecdote of a banquet Mrs. Chesterton attended in 1934 at an international gathering of writers in honour of Maxim Gorki may be quoted. Stalin had written in praise of a writer as an 'engineer of the soul' and the sentiment was highly applauded. 'But,' said a young writer earnestly, 'I confess I am puzzled. I would not for the world dispute the words of our great leader, but when I looked in the Soviet Encyclopaedia I found: 'Soul—abolished by Karl Marx.' A shout of laughter went round the table and a bearded professor started to his feet. 'And in the next edition you will find: 'Soul—restored by Joseph Stalin.' He insisted and we all clapped.'

Mrs. Chesterton is quite cross with Archbishop Lang, then of Canterbury, for writing of persecution in Russia as late as 1929, when it had long ceased. Comparison of the industrial conditions and in especial of the housing in town and country 1930-1939, are of peculiar interest. And then Mrs. Chesterton has herself never been addicted to the Communist faith, which makes her report the more valuable in this good and in many ways entertaining book.

JOSEPH CLAYTON.