

laid under contribution by this heartening book; which, for all who would lend head or hand, in however inconspicuous and piecemeal a fashion, to repair our disintegrated outlook and ravaged soil, should act as a refresher course in sanity.

H.P.E.

WESSEX: Dorset, Wiltshire, Hampshire, with West Berkshire and East Somerset. By Ralph Dutton. (Batsford; 12s. 6d.)

Those who love the English tradition, countryside and architecture, are very deeply in the debt of Messrs. Batsford. Were England to be wiped out, either by catastrophe, or by increasing industrialism and 'planning', and the War Office determination to devastate the most beautiful places, then—supposing a set of Batsford illustrated books survived—it would still be possible to get some idea of what Great Britain used to be like, in those past days when there was time for craftsmanship and worship, those antique times when men found more joy in building a Cathedral than a factory.

It is a large slice of England that Mr Dutton has undertaken in his 'Wessex', which so long ago was one of the Seven Kingdoms of the Heptarchy. Topographical writing is a difficult art, and the fact that it is done so easily and so badly by many people, does not make it less so. But Mr Dutton has the necessary knowledge, imagination and sensitive perception to do it well. He moves smoothly from place to place and from one period of history to another, and thus avoids the horrid jerkiness and the still more horrid facetiousness that disfigures so many country books.

What Mr Dutton sees—such an English rural picture as 'The Cottages of Britford are scattered along the lanes, and the fourteenth-century Church and Georgian vicarage lie with a Tudor farmhouse close to the banks of the river'—he can make his readers see also. Add to this the many and enchanting photographs which adorn this book in the usual lavish Batsford manner, and there is Wessex in one's hand in the most compact and convenient way possible.

ESTHER MEYNELL.

CANTERBURY. By William Townsend. (Batsford; 8s. 6d.)

Few English cities are more saturated with historical associations than Canterbury, which for nearly a thousand years was the centre of Abbey, numerous lesser religious houses, hospitals and a score of parish churches combined to produce a scene of religious activity which must have been outstanding even in Catholic times. The shrine of St Thomas was the most famous place of pilgrimage in the British Isles, to which flocked pilgrims not only from this country but, also,

from most parts of Western Europe. St Thomas died that the Church might be free from State domination and, though his bones have been scattered, the head of another St Thomas (More), who laid down his life for precisely the same cause, still probably reposes in a vault beneath St Dunstan's Church. Of St Augustine's Abbey only a few portions remain, but the fabric of the Primatial Cathedral still stands as an abiding witness to the Faith that was England's for a thousand years. Considering the intensity of the 1942 air raids it is remarkable that the damage to ancient monuments was not greater.

This book has been written by a man who has known Canterbury most of his life and is partly a guide book and partly a survey of local history. The illustrations are good—though one could have wished for more—and the index and bibliography useful and adequate.

E. T. LONG.

DESIGN FOR PRINTING. By John Brinkley. (Sylvan Press; 10s. 6d.)

This is a most useful handbook of design and reproduction processes intended primarily for those many thousands now trained in art schools who need some practical outlet for their training when they leave college. But it will appeal to all who are interested in the printing and production of books and magazines. The author discusses the relation between designer and printer and then discusses in detail the different processes now used in printing designs—a most necessary instruction, as any artist who approaches 'the press' for the first time soon discovers. Many illustrations assist the reader and if the production of the book itself does not give the best example of what the author is aiming at we must put this down to the modern difficulties with which any designer must soon become acquainted.

C.P.

CASSELL'S NEW ENGLISH DICTIONARY. (Cassell; 17s. 6d.)

This is the fifteenth edition of a very convenient dictionary originally prepared by Ernest A. Baker and now enlarged, revised and entirely reset under the direction of Arthur L. Haywood. In the thirty years since the first edition of the *New English Dictionary* appeared new words have been adopted, old words modified or changed, metaphorical phrases have swept like an unseen breeze through the language. All these changes have had to be examined and sorted, and those of any importance will be found among the 120,000 words and phrases comprised within 1,700 pages, sold for the most reasonable price (for the present time) of 17s. 6d. For a comprehensive and easily handled English dictionary this is surely outstanding.

O.P.