

sporadically a libertine. The first Saint Just is that of Mr. Morton. It is only by combining the two together that a biographer could have conveyed the complex tangle of a single human life.

GERVASE MATHEW, O.P.

CATALAN FRANCE. A Study of the Roussillon and the French Cerdagne; with an Excursion to the Co-Principality of the Valleys of Andorra. By Basil Collier. Illustrated by Helen Knapp. (Dent; 18s.)

THE LAND OF FRANCE. By Ralph Dutton and Lord Holden. (Batsford; 8s. 6d.)

'For every thousand Englishmen who have visited Provence, perhaps three have visited the Roussillon.' Had wartime travel-restrictions not intervened in time, it is to be feared that Mr. Collier's seductive description might considerably have reduced that ratio, to the irreparable hurt of that Arcadian corner of Catalonia which still preserves its distinctive regionalism under the gracious and tolerant wardship of Marianne. But though political circumstance will not permit us to avail ourselves of Mr. Collier's services as companion and guide, or to cosmopolitanise the Côte Vermeille after the manner of the Côte d'Azur, we may yet profit from him by vivid vicarious journeyings to that happier and saner land, with gain to ourselves and without hurt to the Roussillon. For, with his more factual grasp of history and topography (not to mention his businesslike Gazetteer, Bibliography and Indexes), and his no lesser power of conveying the spirit of the land and its people, Mr. Collier serves the Roussillon even more effectively than Ford Madox Ford has served Provence. He has enough indeed of the Britisher's prejudice to take Roussillonnais gaiety and nonchalance at their face-value, as indicative respectively of immorality and impiety, but on the whole he is reliable and shrewd so long as he depends upon his own observation. When he relies on hearsay he is over-credulous, and travellers will be deprived of the most unique experience of 'unique' Collioure if they allow Mr. Collier's terror of octopuses and sea-urchins to keep them from swimming in its bay, just as they will go very hungry if they search out its mythical restaurant *Chez Pauline*. There are other indications that the Roussillonnais have added to the joy of living at Mr. Collier's expense. But his book, even without Helen Knapp's evocative drawings (the wash illustrations are less successful), will arouse almost unbearable homesickness in

those who have known and loved the land over which Canigou presides, and may reveal to them many of its wonders which they had missed.

The Land of France is less well adapted for imaginative travel by the fireside. Its authors compass the whole of France, outside Paris and the cosmopolitan tourist centres, in 150 pages, with breathless determination to miss nothing and stop for nothing. But their book would be of value to the novice-traveller on his first assertion of independence from conducted parties. The accompanying photographs, moreover, are excellent and well chosen.

HENRY GORDON.

MEDIÆVAL STUDIES

THE University of Notre Dame, Indiana (U.S.A.), has undertaken the publication of a series in Mediæval Studies. It will include critical studies of mediæval writers and their works, critical editions of texts, doctrinal, historical and literary studies in the several branches of mediæval learning, but especially in the theology and philosophy of the twelfth and thirteenth centuries. Three volumes have already appeared, and others are in preparation. The first volume on the works of the Chancellor of Paris, Peter of Poitiers, is by the Editor himself, Dr. Philip S. Moore, C.S.C.¹ It is a good beginning and promises well for the series. This conscientious work opens with a biographical sketch of Peter of Poitiers, in which are collected with painstaking care from chronicles and other sources all the references relating to his birth and education, his teaching career and his chancellorship. The date of his birth is unknown; but we may say that he was born at Poitiers or in the Poitou, seemingly in 1130 or thereabouts. He pursued his studies presumably at Paris, and was a pupil of the famous Master of the Sentences, Peter Lombard, some time before 1159, date of the Lombard's elevation to the bishopric of Paris. His accession to the chancellorship of Notre Dame of Paris is to be fixed at 1193. His death took place on December 3rd, 1205, when he was still a deacon.

The question of authenticity is to the fore in this book, since in mediæval times works were frequently ascribed indiscrimi-

¹ Philip S. Moore, *The Works of Peter of Poitiers, Master in Theology and Chancellor of Paris (1193-1205)*. Notre Dame, Indiana (U.S.A.). (Publications in Mediæval Studies, The University of Notre Dame, I). Pp. 1-218, \$1.75.