

PAN-SLAVISM: ITS HISTORY AND IDEOLOGY. By Hans Kohn. (University of Notre Dame Press.)

Many of us were shocked two years ago by the confession of Professor Hugh Seton-Watson (*East European Revolution*. Introduction) that at the time he wrote his earlier book on Eastern Europe he was completely ignorant of Soviet theory and practice and the ideological structure of Marxism-Leninism-Stalinism. The naïve manner in which he explained how much better he understood East European development after remedying this ignorance confirmed a growing suspicion: that the British view of Eastern Europe and the history of the Austrian Empire has been formed by short-sighted propagandists. And it is clearly an urgent matter at present for public opinion to be informed about Eastern Europe by scholars endowed with vision and conscious of their responsibility.

Such a scholar is Professor Hans Kohn, who is already well-known for his penetrating studies of nationalism. Furthermore, he is particularly well equipped for writing the history of Pan-Slavism, having endured a good deal of that history in his own person. He divides his book into three sections: *Pan-Slavism and the West, 1815-60*; *Pan-Slavism and Russian Messianism, 1860-1905*; *Pan-Slavism and the World Wars, 1905-1950*. In each of these sections he displays the same mastery of his material, so that even those who are looking for light on contemporary events are recommended to study the earlier parts of the book first; only then can the force of his conclusions be appreciated. In every respect Professor Kohn's book fulfils the aim of the series to which it belongs (*Notre Dame International Studies*) by placing a responsible and informed study within the reach of the general reader.

D. NICHOLL

AN INTRODUCTION TO THE STUDY OF BLAKE. By Max Plowman. (Gollancz; 12s. 6d.)

The re-issue of this introduction to Blake by Max Plowman, 'a pioneer in the Blake renaissance of twenty-five years ago', is somewhat diminished by the passage of these years. It is in many ways what a pioneer study must always be—fresh, enthusiastic, not only over-simplified and almost inarticulate in the effort to convey the delight of personal discovery of a poet, but also over-written. It is not a definitive book. Its claims are only as an introduction and it succeeds in being a lively and pleasant one.

M.E.R.