

L'AFFRONTEMENT CHRETIEN. Par Emmanuel Mounier. (Cahiers du Rhône.)

M. Mounier reflects the youthful enthusiasm of the new France. A France in the throes of rejuvenation, highly self-critical and militantly Catholic. If he has somewhat of the intolerance of youth, he has no less a large measure of its candour and generosity. In this provocative little book he goes to the root causes of the increasing European chaos of the past 150 years with a sure instinct for what is the fundamental weakness in the body politic, social and mystical. At the close of each analytical chapter he points to the sane teaching of the Church as the only remedy and norm. We have forgotten that the faith is a glorious adventure to be lived in the spirit of those crusading knights of old, or the even more ideal comradeship of King Arthur's table who went forth to seek the Holy Grail. We are a new creature in Christ and M. Mounier would have us remember it—and so would the Church.

L. L.

AFTER BLACK COFFEE. By Robert I. Gannon, S.J. (Declan X. McMullen Co.; \$2.00.)*

The wisdom of publishing one's collected *obiter dicta* is frequently questionable. Though the reviewer recently had one such compilation read to him (or as much of it as he could bear) that allowed of no question whatever: for the reason that, appearing stealthily week by week, while they had filled space they had escaped notice. Book-form revealed what was chiefly chunks of encyclopedic intelligence and a number of old chestnuts that one could have told more racy oneself. But Father Gannon made no mistake when he decided to publish his after dinner speeches. They contain much of the wit and wisdom of one of the youngest University Presidents known in the U.S.A. The book has been accurately described as light in tone, though not in content. It deals with such diversities as nursing, Peace Conferences, racial intolerance, science, education, the relation of Labour to the Priesthood, Christian humanism and the Monkey Business, the Chamber of Commerce, China, Russia and Poland.

J. F. T. PRINCE

R. A. L. Smith: Collected Papers, with a Memoir by David Knowles. (Longmans Green & Co.; 8s. 6d.)

One of the symptoms of the managerial age into which we have been plunged is the preoccupation with administration that has gripped the schools of history, and nowhere has it so manifestly become an obsession as in the accounts of monastic estates which diligent students turn out nowadays, accounts in which the ubiquitous bailiff figures just as prominently as God figured in the lives of the monks themselves. Not all students seem to be aware that of equal importance with the ability to distinguish the arable land from the pasture is the ability to see the wood for the trees; few historians have shown the faculty for doing this to such a degree as the late R. A. L. Smith, whose collected papers Longmans have now produced. Only