

REVIEWS

was not a very simple-minded man, we must recognize that this grandee of Spain, like the Duke of Alba and the Regent of the Low Countries, rivalled his master in hypocrisy.' It is characteristic of the dying nineteenth century to be thus drastic.

D.J.A.

MABILLON. By Dom Thierry Ruinart. (Abbaye de Maredsous, 1933; 15 francs.)

Mabillon's learned work is well known and his fame as a scholar assured; not so familiar is his personal life as a priest and a monk. It is the peculiar merit of this account of him by Dom Ruinart, the companion of his labours and his devoted disciple, that it gives us a living picture of the faithful monk, exact in the performance of every monastic duty and inspired by the deepest Christian piety. It is an attractive and edifying portrait. Dom Ruinart traces the whole course of his life, tells of his monastic vocation conceived at the shrine of St. Remy, of his student years interrupted by ill-health, of his great literary achievements, and finally of the very painful illness, endured with exemplary patience, which ended his fruitful career. He writes with the pen of an affectionate disciple, full of admiration for his beloved master and almost inconsolable for his loss. He did not long survive him, but himself died within two years, soon after this life was first published. The original work having become very rare, the Benedictines of Maredsous decided to commemorate the tercentenary of Mabillon's birth (1632-1932) by issuing a modern edition in their well-known *Collection Pax*. We applaud the decision and give this inspiring volume our sincerest commendation.

J.M.

WORLD PANORAMA, 1918-1933. By George Seldes. (Hamish Hamilton; 12/6.)

When a writer sets himself the theme of the last vital years through which the human race has passed, the reader may justly expect an objective and reasonably complete record of facts, either with or without an attempt to inculcate a lesson—an attempt to guide. Either is a noble task. When a 'World Panorama' combines an 'arrangement' of facts which it would be flattering to call unfair with a general impression of complete purposelessness and chaos in human life, it is difficult to assess either the motives of the author or the value of the book. To help or hinder society marks the difference between citizen and criminal. The destroyer is the real reactionary. At intervals the calm voice of the Papal Encyclicals breaks in upon the sea of