

## Book Notes

The Seventh International Patristic Conference will be in session at Oxford when this number of *New Blackfriars* appears, so it seems right to mention first A. G. Hamman's *Jacques-Paul Migne: le retour aux Pères de l'Eglise* (Beauchesne, Paris, 30F.), published to celebrate the centenary of a zealous but not particularly cultured country curé who, when he had left his native Auvergne for the Orléans seminary, had known 'little French and less Latin', but who was to become surely one of the most amazing men in the history of commercial publishing. In spite of many obstacles (including a hostile bishop) Migne, in the 379 volumes of his two patrologies, for the first time made easily available in cheap editions the bulk of the writings of the Greek and Latin Fathers. His was one of the major achievements of the nineteenth-century Church, for, as de Lubac has said, the greatest men who have pioneered renewal in Catholic theology and the life of the Church in our own age have all worked 'sous le signe des Pères'.

Beauchesne have also published, separately in pocket size, some of the weightier articles from their *Dictionnaire de Spiritualité*. Noteworthy (in spite of its deep distrust of apocalyptic) is *Le Judaïsme* by R. Le Deaut, A. Jaubert and K. Hruby (18F.). Reviewed in *New Blackfriars*, February 1973, Günther Bornkamm's *Paul* is now in paperback (Hodder & Stoughton, £2.25).

The comparative study of Christian and Hindu scriptures by Geoffrey Parrinder, *Upanishads, Gita and Bible*, has been re-issued (Sheldon, £3; £1.50 paper), and in a new book, *The Wisdom of the Forest* (Sheldon, £2.75; £1.25 paper), the same author has made a valiant effort to produce an easily readable selection of texts from the Upanishads. The texts are cropped and in places paraphrased, and many Hindu terms are converted into Western metaphysical and religious terms. But does this disguise the 'otherness' of these writings? If textual accuracy is your fetish, grit your teeth and stick to Zaehner's *Hindu Scriptures*. In the same series, *The Wisdom of the Zen Masters* £2.75; £1.25) is a thoughtful selection by Irmgard Schloegl, with a lucid introduction. Rather different is Janwillem van de Wetering's *A Glimpse*

*of Nothingness* (Routledge, £3.25); this account of the author's experiences in an American Zen community adds little of abiding worth to his account of his Japanese experiences, *The Empty Mirror*, reviewed in *New Blackfriars*, June 1974.

'There is no substitute for critical tradition: a continuum of understanding, early commenced', says Hugh Kenner in *The Pound Era*. So solitary authors like Blake and Hopkins are still hard to approach, whereas 'In the 1920s something was immediately made of *Ulysses* and *The Waste Land*'. This dense but deeply researched survey of the age of Pound, Eliot, Joyce and Wyndham Lewis is now in paperback (Faber, £2.50). In *The Third Book of Criticism* (Faber, £4.50) are collected essays by Randall Jarrell on Auden, Graves, Robert Frost and Wallace Stevens. And many of these authors whom Kenner and Randall Jarrell write about appear, of course, in Julian Symons' *The Thirties*, now in paperback (Faber, £1.50, £4.50 cloth). Here they are set within the context of that decade's sufferings and conflicts, social and political, with which we now share more in common than we did in 1960 (when this book first appeared). Symons writes of their dilemmas as if they were past.

For those who have read Francis Barker's study of Solzhenitsyn (*New Blackfriars*, April and May) Zhores Medvedev's account of relations between this author and the Soviet authorities from 1962 until his deportation, *Ten Years After Ivan Denisovich*, now in Penguin (60p), should be especially disturbing. Also in Penguin is Léon Trotsky's *My Life* (£1.25)—a corrective to Deutscher's biography and essential reading for anybody seeking to understand the man whose work has inspired followers to challenge not merely Western capitalism but also the State capitalists of the East. And yet another sort of resistance is surveyed in the symposium edited by Stephen Hawes and Ralph White *Resistance in Europe 1939-1945* (Allen Lane, £4.50). It includes an interesting essay by Louis Allen, 'Resistance and the Catholic Church in France', which hints that in the situation precipitated by the resistance 'there lay the seed of the future reformation of the French Catholic Church'.

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