

His religious and ecclesiastical knowledge appears somewhat inadequate for his theme: and such statements as that 'With the coming of the idiorhythmic system and private property, the path to God of unadulterated mysticism was complicated by works and ethics' are quite baffling. (Nor is it 'idiorhythmic' that is puzzling—some explanation of that is given on page 57.) D.A.

THE SORCERER'S APPRENTICE. By Elspeth Huxley. (Chatto and Windus; 18s.)

Perhaps the title of this comprehensive account of a journey through East Africa is somewhat deceptive, for it does not deal, or only incidentally, with the absorbing subject of African black magic and witchcraft. However, the reader cannot complain for he is forewarned; nor will he wish to complain after a careful study of what the author has to say on a subject which, in fact, proves to be as absorbing as jungle sorcery. On the whole Mrs Huxley is concerned with the new Africa and its civil administration; a subject less splendid, perhaps, than lions but 'more potent in this turbulent and groping age which is rolling over Africa'. Mrs Huxley is well equipped to write of the new Africa, since she was born in Kenya and has long been familiar with African problems. Her journeys through Kenya, Tanganyika, Zanzibar and Uganda produce a litany of diverting names—Malindi, Kilima Kiu, Lyamungu, Kongwa, Mwanza, Ukiriguru and many others. They produce, too, much information, which is always interesting, often amusing, and sometimes disturbing.

The many photographs illustrating the author's journeys are in the conventional style but they add further attractiveness to a book which is, in itself, well worth while. KIERAN MULVEY, O.P.

GREECE: MOMENTS OF GRACE. By Ashley Smith. (Eyre and Spottiswoode; 15s.)

According to the publishers' 'blurb' this latest study of Greece, which, incidentally, is dedicated to Mr Graham Greene, 'comes like a breath of fresh air into a stifled room; it cleans a landscape varnished over by sentiment—gives not the "meaning" of the landscape, but that first fine moment of revelation, its being, and its incredible magic'. The 'moments of grace' are those dazzling moments of ecstasy when the author contemplates the sempiternal beauty of Greece. These are, inevitably, personal and private moments in his experience. It is, therefore, not surprising that the reader should at first feel embarrassed as he reads, in colourful prose, of these ecstatic moments.

Although the author denies that he is in love with Greece he writes with the tenderness of a lover. After the initial embarrassment, the reader can surrender himself to some lovely descriptions of the Grecian scene. There are, of course, observations on the political scene in Greece, for the author was there during the elec-