

ENGLISH AND WELSH CRUCIFIXES, 670-1550. By J. E. Hunt. (S.P.C.K.; 25s.)

This is an account of medieval crucifixion scenes portrayed in many media: stone carving and wood carving, in wall paintings, and manuscript illumination. There are thirty-nine plates and about eighty pages of text and no index. Of course this is quite inadequate even for an introduction to so wide a subject. Two sections seem purposely avoided: the scenes in embroidery (as in the St John's College altar frontal) and those in alabaster so well represented in the Victoria and Albert Museum and at Ferrara. Yet apart from these so much has been omitted of crucial iconographical significance like the retables at Norwich and in the Walbrabf Richartz collection at Cologne.

But it would be so unjust to write a merely critical review. Mr Hunt has opened up a subject of supreme importance in medieval spirituality and iconography. The standard of photography in his reproductions is uniformly high. His descriptions are admirably concise. His interest is unflagging. Many of the scenes that he reproduces and discusses are barely known. This is particularly true of those from Wales. It is to be regretted that he did not limit his study to Welsh crucifixion scenes, for had he done so he could have produced a study on the same scale that could have been definitive.

GERVASE MATHEW, O.P.

WALLS OF JERICHO. By Margaret Wheeler. (Chatto and Windus; 21s.)

This is a vivid and appealing description of a season's dig at Jericho with Dr Kenyon. It is illustrated by some admirable photographs and by some convincing, vivacious and often amusing sketches. It provides an introduction to the history of the Jericho site and to the kind of discoveries that are being made there. Still more important, it provides an introduction to modern archaeological practice. Sir Mortimer Wheeler has familiarized a vast new public with the existence, purpose and techniques of archaeology. His wife conveys the fact and need of team-work in terms of contrasted personalities and of the day's routine. There is so much in her account that will be novel to ordinary readers. There is only one detail that might seriously surprise a fellow archaeologist; there appears to have been no trace of friction or of tension or of 'Odium Archaeologicum'. Still, possibly that might be explained by the presence of Lady Wheeler.

G.M.

ETHIOPIA: A Cultural History. By Sylvia Pankhurst. (Lalibela House; 37s. 6d.)

This is not only a valuable but an appealing book. No similar account is accessible in English. It is based on first-hand knowledge

as well as on a mastery of many texts and it is very obviously inspired by a deep affection and sympathy for everything Ethiopian. There are nearly one hundred and seventy illustrations and a consistently high standard of accuracy. Perhaps there is a lack of proportion in its crowded detail. But if it is a quarry rather than a building, it is a quarry for which every student of African history will be permanently grateful.
G.M.

ROMAN SPAIN. By F. J. Wiseman. (Bell; 18s. 6d.)

This is an admirably illustrated guide to the chief Roman remains in Spain and Portugal. Inevitably there are omissions like that of the site at Carteia. Perhaps more avoidably there is some oddly slipshod history; Arius becomes Bishop of Alexandria, Hadrian is brought up in Rome by his 'Uncle Trojan', the Christian Church is established as the official religion of the Empire before the middle of the third century (p. 222). But it is more important that it is written throughout from first-hand knowledge of the rites and with an infectious zest.

G.M.

THE CYRENAICAN EXPEDITION OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER IN 1952. Edited by Alan Rowe. (Manchester University Press; 25s.)

This report of archaeological fieldwork in Cyrenaica falls into three parts: a study in tombs by Mr Rowe, an account of town planning by Mr Buttle, a list of Jewish inscriptions by Dr Gray. The last is the most valuable for it illustrates vividly the life of a Hellenized Jewish community in North Africa, primarily in the first century A.D. There is an occasional odd misprint: 'the Christian Emperor Diocletian' appears on page 3. There is an occasional assertion that seems too positive: the very enigmatic, possibly Gnostic, scrawl reproduced on page 59 is entitled 'a Hebrew Christian Monogram'. It may be suggested that much more use might have been made of air photography as a guide. But, taken as a whole, the report illustrates how much useful work can still be done by field survey without excavation.

G.M.

ARNOLD TOYNBEE. A STUDY OF HISTORY. ABRIDGEMENT OF VOLUMES VII-X. By D. C. Somervell. (Oxford University Press; 25s.)

Mr Somervell's abridgement has been made in collaboration with Professor Toynbee, who describes it in a preface as 'first-rate'. It can therefore be taken as a reliable guide to the general argument and structure of his great work which it compresses to a size which busy people may hope to tackle. Those who have read the original ten volumes will also find the abridgement valuable, and not least perhaps