

nationalised because that is the road to social justice and socialism. This book is an authoritative statement of the case against what many people understand by Fabianism; and, unlike many books on economics, it is one which is easily comprehensible to the man in the street as well as valuable to economists and to Fabians.

PAUL DERRICK

ST THOMAS AND THE WORLD STATE. By Robert M. Hutchins. (Marquette University Press, Milwaukee, 1949; \$1.50.)

The Chancellor of the University of Chicago, holder, among many other distinctions, of the Italian *Croce di Guerra*, makes in the Aquinas Lecture for 1949 a somewhat Utopian appeal for the establishment of a World State which would render wars impossible. One can but echo with a fervent *utinam* what has been the plea of some of the greatest Christian political theorists. Works like the present, however, leave us inevitably with a feeling of something immense to be accomplished, and of disappointment that we are not shown more clearly the way to bring it about. An occasional lecturer is not expected to make necessarily any considerable new contribution to his subject, and, in fact, we find that Dr Hutchins has presented the classic texts from Aristotle and St Thomas with competence and lucidity, but that the fifty-odd pages in which he does it contain little that is not already familiar to readers of Maritain and Don Sturzo.

D.S.

THIS PERVERSE GENERATION. By Peter Michaels. (Sheed & Ward; 7s. 6d.)

Anything offensive to our insufferable complacency, any words, likely to sting our faith (if we English Catholics, as a body, can be said to have any) to action, are welcome. Peter Michaels's book is welcome. It pleases the author that communists nip perseveringly at the weak spots 'of what was once Christendom'. God has not yet abandoned us to our complacency: we may even, after all, *not* pass away peacefully in our sleep, but be jerked awake to the cold truth that we have built on phoney foundations and must build elsewhere, and otherwise, if our house is to survive. For the visible fabric has crumbled. Thank God for an imperishable Church, but without presumption! There is more to be done than bemoan the strength of the persecutors who have all but severed the human coherence of Christendom. To those who may complain of too much denunciation: Regeneration must come by destruction: the rot must be excised: the débris of our ruined pride and expediency must be carted in shame away. Peter Michaels is not, however, unconstructive; in his lively pictures of our (scarcely existent) Catholic social life, he shows up the meanness that satisfies too many against the unfailing sufficiency of God's Word and God's Church.

And we are made to realise that we can build his house only under the faithful guidance of the Master Builder himself. One may add that Peter Michaels's animadversions on the modern trend in the United States apply equally in Great Britain. J. F. T. PRINCE.

THE EVIDENCE FOR VOLUNTARY ACTION. Edited by Lord Beveridge and A. F. Wells. (Allen & Unwin; 16s.)

Lord Beveridge's work on Voluntary Action, which was 'a Report on Methods of Social Advance', was based on material collected by experts in all the different fields of social service. The present volume sets forth this variegated material in all its richness. The first part consists of reports by Mass Observation on various kinds of services, and includes a section on holidays. Within its limits this is useful as presenting a cross-section of the people who are on the receiving end of the different forms of assistance described later in the book. In this latter section a large number of memoranda submitted by voluntary organisations are set out, and the whole is rounded off by studies of some selected subjects, of which perhaps the most interesting is the National Council of Social Service.

It is the peculiar genius of the English people to have built up these multifarious associations for assisting every kind of need, combining them with statutory work and often preparing the way for it. One cannot but be filled with admiration for the spirit of service which has inspired so many people to so many foundations. Mr Roger Wilson, in his memorandum on 'The Future of Voluntary Social Work', speaks of 'the absolute value derived from the responsible participation in social organisation and social thought of the amateur and professional who are prepared to give part of their time to organised social responsibility without personal reward'. Of such people there has never been a lack, and this must surely be counted to us as virtue. J.F.

THE SOCIAL PROBLEMS OF AN INDUSTRIAL CIVILISATION. By B. Elton Mayo. (Routledge & Kegan Paul; 12s. 6d.)

More than any other industrial psychologist Professor Elton Mayo was a pioneer in the study of the human and social problems that the machine has brought in its wake. This present book is a welcome complement to his *Human Problems of an Industrial Civilisation* published some three years ago. He will perhaps be best remembered for that milestone in industrial sociology, the experiment at the Hawthorne works of the Western Electric Company, and both the experiment itself and the conclusions of the important nexus between high output and the fulfilment of human satisfaction are set out in the present book.

Professor Mayo's central thesis is that man greatly desires to be associated with his fellows in work, and that one of the greatest