

*Iron becomes a beautiful dignity
Sailing upon the water.*

The Army, too, for all the attempts at democratisation, preserved the just limitations of the military art and spirit:

*What is the sense of 'ating those
'Oom you are paid to kill?*

Rarely in history has the art been more purely exercised than in the campaigns of the Eighth Army and the Afrika Corps in the wastes of Libya. It is fashionable to decry the profession of arms, but a moralist is not ungrateful for the fundamental modesty and restraint that goes with it, and a sense of irony uncommon in politicians. This runs through the account of the operations that began with Alamein and ended on the Elbe. The feeling for the economy of war possessed by the soldiers of the enemy will be a surprise to many. The beastliness and military clumsiness came from so-called higher levels; within their tactical limits, German soldiers have just reason for pride. Major Shulman was a member of the Intelligence Staff of the Canadian Army; his book is based on the interrogation of prisoners, and gives the tale of what happened on the other side of the hill. He is certainly not out to admire, but even so, despite himself, von Rundstedt cuts no contemptible figure.

As might be expected, the book from the newest service most closely engaged the problems of total war. It is written with a rough candour that does not disguise its contempt for the bloody business. It traces the three stages of strategic bombing, of key points, of enemy morale, and of areas of war production. Precision attacks were not in general successful, though there were conspicuous exceptions, and towards the end of the war special apparatus was making them more feasible. Terror bombing, largely of civilian inspiration, proved unsound, at least against north-western Europeans. The third, though never carried out so completely as was planned, for our forces were often diverted to other operations, was a major factor in the defeat of the enemy. The author is not blind to the moral issue; his defence is that saturation bombing was in comparison with other weapons to hand the least murderous and untidy. The high explosives and incendiaries used against Germany are already obsolete, but his book brings to a head the need for a fresh statement of doctrine.

THOMAS GILBY, O.P.

THE SCOT IN HISTORY. By Wallace Notestein. (Jonathan Cape; 16s.)

A reader of Wodehouse would expect an entertaining book, even on such a solemn subject as the Scot in history, from an alumnus of the College of Wooster, which Professor Notestein, with filial devotion, confesses himself to be. And these expectations would be, in this case, fulfilled. This latest study of Scottish History, which ignores learned footnotes and impressive bibliography, has a delightful freshness. No doubt professional historians, as is their way, would find fault with such a readable history book.

The Scot who looks at himself in the mirror might show something

of that warlike spirit of which Professor Notestein writes so warmly, for the reflection is not always flattering. The English reader, too, will be amused and, perhaps, disturbed by penetrating comments on the English character, with which that of the Scot is here contrasted. It takes many years of study to become well-versed in the history of the Northern Kingdom, but anyone who reads this book carefully will acquire, with much less labour, a sound knowledge of Scottish history and, if such is required, a better understanding of that intriguing enigma, the Scot himself.

The book is divided into three parts, of which the first deals with the early Scots. The second is concerned with the tides and storms of religious change. The Kirk of Mary, Queen of Scots, does not emerge unscathed from Professor Notestein's impartial analysis, but the unlovely religion of Knox and the Reformers suffers even more devastating criticism. The third part deals with the modern Scot and is particularly valuable for the comments on the eighteenth-century Scottish intellectuals.

It is not unknown for an American to boast. Professor Notestein who is an American and a Professor at New Haven, Connecticut, is too modest for he insists that this book is merely the work of an amateur. It may be so, but certainly the book is informative, provocative and, unusual in a work on Scottish history, entertaining. K.M.

RECALLING THE SCOTTISH COVENANTS. By Hugh Watt. (Nelson; 6s.)

Professor Watt's little book is to be commended in that it makes clear the distinction between the National Covenant and the Solemn League and Covenant. While the popular and representative character of the former is well brought out, the intolerant and party character of the latter is minimised. Dr Watt does not seem to realise that the arguments he uses against Laud can be used with equal power against his opponents—at least in their final position. In spite of its interest, the book is parochial in its approach, and indeed possesses something of the negative character of the Covenants themselves. I. H.

FOUR CENTURIES OF WITCH BELIEFS; with Special Reference to the Great Rebellion. By R. Trevor Davies. (Methuen; 15s.)

The title of this study is so wide as to be a little misleading. Mr Trevor Davies writes with the careful and exact scholarship that would be expected of him. His subject is the evidence for the strength of witch beliefs in early 17th century England, the relation between witch beliefs and party alignments and in consequence their political implications. It is his tentative conclusion that 'the Rebellion was, viewed from one standpoint, a struggle between the destroyers and defenders of reputed witches'. To many such a conclusion will sound too simplified, even granted the strong credulity of the Puritan leaders and the tired scepticism of the court. But he has drawn attention to a factor in the Civil War which has been previously ignored,