

and that institutions which function in a spirit of tolerance and for the common weal in one place may, in another, be no more than a façade behind which the most cruel tyranny, the greatest extremes of robbery and violence, may lurk. Such institutions may be called by the same name, but the spirit which inspires them is completely different.'

Mr. Egerton describes well the personality of Portugal's unassuming dictator. Salazar may justly claim the noble Roman title which others have used, apparently, as a polite substitute for 'tyrant.'

The equation of 'democracy' with 'parliamentary government' is one of the most unfortunate errors of our times. The Portuguese New State is absolutely opposed to 'democracy' and 'liberalism' based on the disastrous ideas of 1789.

But true democracy—representation of the will of the nation, suppression of vested interests for the interests of the whole people, and provision of equal opportunity for all classes to share in the material and spiritual resources of the nation—this may be obtained under various systems of government—possibly more successfully under monarchy, aristocracy or dictatorship than under parliamentarism.

But *no* system of government can be anything but hurtful to the nation unless it is based (implicitly or explicitly) on Christian principles.

Salazar is a Christian: Portugal is a Christian State—a thing almost unique in the modern world. Hence the importance of this book.

MICHAEL SEWELL.

SO FAR. By W. J. Brown, M.P. (Geo. Allen & Unwin, Ltd.; 12s. 6d.)

It is a habit among politicians to crown their careers with an autobiographical justification; usually of a strongly defensive character. This is precisely the type of book that Mr. Brown has not written.

The son of a plumber, he overcame great difficulties to reach his present pinnacle, and relates these early struggles with a frankness and sincerity which cannot fail to enlist the full sympathy of the reader. His early efforts on behalf of the lower grade civil servants brought great benefits to that body, which a less astute or aggressive representative would have failed to wrest from a soulless Treasury. Later, his arrival in the House of Commons as Labour Member for Wolverhampton, gives rise to reflections on Parliamentary caucuses which form the basis of a well-reasoned condemnation of Party Politics, with their Trade Union and other external influences. After this critical and observant attitude toward the deficiencies of Left Wing political activities, it seems strange that Mr. Brown should contribute to their flights of fancy in Foreign Policy; 'the murder of the Spanish Republic' (this seems to call for a plea of 'justifiable homicide'), and then that classical example of the auto-suggestive power of the Press—the bombing of Guernica.

Then again, the religious opinions of the author are of the highest disorder; a mysterious influence called 'The Good Law' being a governing factor in all his decisions of a moral nature. It can only be concluded that Mr. Brown shares the convictions of most of his compatriots, who prefer a 'good law' unto themselves when spiritual and moral issues arise. Incidentally, is Shaw usually considered a quotable authority on these matters?

However, the few disturbing factors in no way dominate this extremely well written book, and one is left with the thought that if the future public life of the author results in nothing more than a sequel of the same excellence, his continued career will have been largely justified.

MAURICE McLOUGHLIN.

CARDINAL HINSLEY. A Memoir by John C. Heenan, D.D. (Burns Oates; 8s. 6d.)

Those who brought 'much pressure' on the reluctant Dr. Heenan to write this memoir did a disservice both to the author and to his subject. The book bears the marks of reluctance and pressure; reluctance, in the increasing space occupied by lengthy questions as the book proceeds: pressure, in the uneasy and defiant way in which he justifies the Cardinal from a seeming cloud of opponents. Dr. Heenan begins with the principle that 'the most interesting account of a man's life centres around his conflicts,' and though he professes to leave this account to the future official biographer, his own treatment suggests that the life of Cardinal Hinsley was centred in conflict and that his biographer's chief and rather difficult task is to bring him into a favourable light. Yet on the first page the author rightly speaks of the 'lovable, saintly and very human person . . . a man so universally loved.' Why then was it necessary to drag in the motives of the many politicians who attended the Cardinal's funeral, to show the superiority of a Roman Seminary training over a Sulpician one, to introduce 'back-handers' at Christian pacifists, Catholics of the Left and of the Right, persons who use the Roman missal and users of the word 'ideology,' or to make frequent journalistic quips regarding what must be Dr. Heenan's bugbears rather than the Cardinal's? The book has however been very well received on all sides—a tribute indeed to the wide and continued popularity of this great figure of war-time Catholicism in England.

C.P.

FUTURE GERMANY. By Colonel T. H. Minshall, D.S.O., M.I.E.E. (Allen and Unwin; 8s. 6d.)

Will Englishmen ever understand foreigners? Colonel Minshall has made a real effort to do so, and his knowledge of German history and ways of life is considerable. His plans for a closer economic