

enth and twelfth centuries ('Society and the Supernatural: A Medieval Change', pp 302-332).

'Brilliant', but not always quite right. For it is possible to see now more clearly that in many ways these studies were a new look at old material and not always the full perspective, as indeed Mr Brown suggests in his preface (p vii).

For instance, in re-reading the 'Holy Man in Late Antiquity', one is struck by the external nature of the comments; this is the outsider's view of the saint, the expectations of the visitors who observed and used the holy man, but not the internal view, which would explore the saint's own view of his life. In the essay on relics in the age of Gregory of Tours, it is easy to see now that the contrasts are too sharply drawn, that the cult of relics of the dead and the veneration of the living saint cannot be isolated from one another

in any period or place. And the limitations of the discussion of the twelfth century view of the miraculous and especially of the ordeal seems more clear than when it was first proposed.

But Mr Brown has himself foreseen this criticism, and has added footnotes and references to the original texts which show the reader the progress of scholarship and the light it has thrown upon his work. Often, he himself has expanded and corrected his earlier opinions; but others are generously acknowledged for their work in continuing and rectifying the first inspiration. These are still brilliant essays, conveying after ten years much of the original impact, and showing in an unshakable way the debt we owe to Mr Brown both as original explorer and inspiring guide in these 'new beginnings' these 'raids on the articulate'.

BENEDICTA WARD S.L.G.

A HISTORY OF ISRAEL IN THE OLD TESTAMENT PERIOD

by H. Jagersma. *SCM* 1982.

E.T. from the Dutch edition 1979 by John Bowden. pp xv + 304. Limp £9.50

Professor Jagersma provides an excellent introduction to the study of the subject, competent, clear and well set out, covering the period from the patriarchs to the end of Persian rule. Each chapter deals with a specific period, with a series of sub-headings on particular topics. Arguments are set out boldly in the text, with references to further discussion in the footnotes. Professor Jagersma makes the reader aware of the limitations of the evidence available, and in particular he stresses that 'the books of the Old Testament are religious writings. . . . We should not expect from the Old Testament any first

hand information about the history of Israel in the Old Testament period' (p 1).

Three subjects are treated in an excursus: 'Apiru and Hebrews, the Tribes of Israel, and the chronology of the kings of Israel and Judah. The last is taken up again in an appendix. Modern scholars, names and subjects, and Biblical references are each provided with an index. There are five line maps.

Sixth formers, undergraduates and those looking for a valuable guide to the subject will find this book the best short introduction available.

MARGARET PAMMENT