

scarcely be said to be either. In neither field are any real historical judgments made, nor is the reader provided with material that will enable him to make judgments or draw conclusions for himself. For the six subjects chosen are arbitrarily selected from a vast field, and the facts presented are not put in any wider social or political context. For example the transportation of convicts was just one element in the whole penal system, but of the rest of that system and its reform we are told nothing. Hence after reading the chapter on transportation, we may be sadder men, but can scarcely consider ourselves any the wiser. And as regards the penal settlements in Australia themselves, without reference to wider issues, even such a purely biographical account as *The Life of Ullathorne* gives us a more balanced picture than does the chapter in this book devoted to that subject. Briefly, one wonders what is the value of writing up isolated reports on a variety of subjects, without any reference whatever to other sources of evidence which are needed to complete the picture.

But if this book is a rather slight one, at least it has the virtue of grinding no axes, and it is full of interesting tit-bits of information which might lend colour to the reader's knowledge of the period, and cannot but stir his imagination and compassion. It may not be history, but it has the makings of six historical short stories.

E.H.

THOMAS BECKET OF CANTERBURY. By Alfred Duggan. (Faber and Faber; 12s. 6d.)

Authors have doubtless often a just complaint against reviewers that they will not receive their books in the spirit in which they are written. The publisher's jacket—there is no preface—seems to indicate that Mr Duggan's Thomas Becket has chiefly the older 'teens in mind, and his remark in the bibliography that Pollock and Maitland's *History of English Law* is 'long and detailed but one of the funniest history books ever written' suggests well enough that his approach to his source-books can be Puckish. Readers who take their history neat and sober are therefore warned of a certain archness. But should they buy this book for their children? Those of us whose boyish piety was nurtured by lives like Miss Wilmot-Buxton's *Anselm* or Susan Cunningham's *Becket* will find the sophistication of the genre in 1953 a sometimes startling contrast. One is, as it were, compelled to keep in mind the iconoclasm of the intervening generation. A high critical tone would however be out of place. The only question of interest is whether in fact a technique so apparently unbeguiled by romance is likely to communicate a more just sense of historical perspective. The opening pages giving a brief sketch of the Norman achievement in the setting of twelfth-century Christendom are a considerable *tour de force*,

yet here and there, in ways it would be hard to convey by short quotations, the attitudes of the new convention are imperceptibly established. One may well wonder if the attempt to be quite so 'matey' with twelfth-century society does not in the end succeed only in being patronising. Beyond dispute more accurately documented than any of its equivalents twenty years ago—the only anachronism we notice was the surprising suggestion that Benediction was the normal evening service of the period—it may be that Mr Duggan has been a little too careful to preserve that new kind of remoteness which our latter-day taste prefers, the remoteness of a universal and well-informed impartiality. Yet when all this has been admitted on the one hand, who would not, on the other, envy the boy who could open this book and find, instead of illustrations of rush-strewn floors and bishops in tea-cosies, the magnificent mosaic of St Thomas from Monreale? There if ever is a portrait that presents a challenge to a teacher of real genius.

ÆLFRED SQUIRE, O.P.

**ONE SKY TO SHARE:** The French and American Journals of R. L. Bruckberger. (P. J. Kenedy and Sons, New York; \$3.)

Fr Bruckberger is a French Dominican who has presented in these selections from his Journals thoughts prompted by his wartime service (first as a fighting Commando, then as Chaplain General to the Resistance) and by his stay in the U.S.A. The literary form of this book, while making it very readable, may conceal from the prospective purchaser the fact that its contents are sufficiently important to deserve a more pretentious presentation; for Fr Bruckberger has made a penetrating analysis of the significance of the U.S.A., a country for which he has an undisguised though not uncritical admiration. What gives unity to the two Journals is his passionate devotion (very like that of Bernanos) to ideals of pre-Revolution France which he sees inherited by the U.S.A.

This is not a book of war memoirs; indeed the author's factual reticence is such that some of the essential events have to be supplied in the translator's notes. He is concerned with ideas and ideals, and it is these, incarnated in action, which are reported. Typical, and most moving, is his appearance for the defence at Darnand's trial because he saw the defendant as a man of honour, however misguided his loyalties.

It is hoped that the cost of this book will not prevent sterling-area readers from profiting from its many profound observations, theological, aesthetic and political.

S.P.

**ESSAYS ON THE SOCIOLOGY OF KNOWLEDGE.** By Karl Mannheim. (Routledge and Kegan Paul; 25s.)

This is a valuable addition to the International Library of Sociology and Social Reconstruction founded by the late Dr Mannheim, author of