

private property begins with St Thomas, but it does not end there: he points out that new conditions call for a different emphasis (but it is an exaggeration to say that St Thomas's argument is 'largely irrelevant') and devotes a special chapter to 'social control', not only maintaining the principles but indicating the practical possibilities of its realisation.

E.Q.

A HISTORY OF THE LABOUR PARTY FROM 1914. By G. D. H. Cole. (Routledge and Kegan Paul; 18s.)

In this volume, a sequel to the same author's *British Working-Class Politics, 1832-1914* (published in 1941), Professor Cole describes in detail the major phenomenon of English political history in the twentieth century—the rise of the Labour Party and its supersession of the Liberal Party as His Majesty's Opposition or His Majesty's Government, as the case may be. This process is illustrated very clearly by the two graphs at the beginning of Chapter I showing the seats and votes gained by the three main parties at general elections from 1906 to 1945; in both cases the Liberals begin at the top and Labour at the bottom, but end with their positions reversed. The failure of the Liberal Party to appeal to the modern voter may be due as much to its attempt to have the best of two irreconcilable ideas—free private enterprise on the one hand and the social service state on the other—as to the weakness of its leadership, and the student of the present volume may well wonder whether the Labour Party is fated to go the same way. The author tells of continual struggle with the Communists outside the Party and with the more aggressively left-wing elements inside. Yet Professor Cole is optimistic about the future of the Labour Party and the future of the country under its guidance, but he leaves the reader with the impression that both are in a state of somewhat uneasy equilibrium.

The book is written objectively on the whole, although the author cannot resist adopting an 'I told you so' attitude when discussing matters on which he differed at the time from the Party leaders, and he can of course believe little good of the Tories and still less of MacDonald and Snowden, who in his view betrayed the Party in 1931. The student of political history will find this a valuable work of reference, comprehensive and detailed, with a useful chapter on the history of the Labour Party in local government. The Catholic reader will probably wonder wherein lies the attraction of the ideals of the British Labour movement. The compelling power of Communism is understandable, albeit detestable, but these humanitarian notions, owing much to the Church's social teaching yet divorced from the Christian doctrine which alone can give that teaching its force, hardly constitute a faith by which to live. Professor Cole talks eloquently in his concluding paragraph of 'security

and justice for the common man'; he has little to say about the charity without which all else is nothing.

M. C. GRAIN

INSTEAD OF ARMS. By Count Folke Bernadotte. (Hodder & Stoughton; 12s.6d.)

This is a diary, though not strictly chronological, of Count Bernadotte's relief-work experiences in almost every European country since 1939. It was published in Sweden—so the 'blurb' informs us—two days before his assassination. It makes no claim to be a literary masterpiece; nor is it the story of a subtle diplomat. It is rather an informal talk with a humble, humanitarian peacemaker.

Among the descriptions of his varied work with the Swedish Red Cross during and after hostilities, the Count has much of interest to tell us. Few would be so ready to record all that he does: the appreciation shown by Russian internees in Sweden; an explanation (but emphatically not a justification) of the Russian failure to give news of P.O.W.s; the Paris hotel valet who had come to respect his war-time 'guest', a German general. We hear of inter-rank informality valued and practised by the R.A.F., but not in the Russian army; how strangely some enemy objectives escaped in Berlin and Frankfurt while civilian and neutral property were destroyed on an immense scale. Soon after the story of the murder of 400 Jugoslavs in Norway by Nazis, we read of the mass grave of 45,000 unknown Germans in Hamburg. This was total war, and the Count was particularly able to understand this.

And always he draws the moral; some might find this tedious. Yet some truths need telling 'opportune, importune'. Our forgetfulness to thank God for the greater mercies; the underlying humanity of our enemies; and, above all, the Count's lesson, the supreme value of personal contacts. He ends by describing his new and formidable task in Palestine, and by refusing to be pessimistic, writing as he flew to Lake Success for further negotiations. The whole impresses, and sometimes shames us. It has good reason to do both.

J.O.H.

CHAPTERS IN WESTERN CIVILISATION. (Columbia University Press. London: Geoffrey Cumberlege; 2 vols., 14s.0d. each.)

These two volumes contain essays from various hands, and are designed to meet the academic needs of the American student, especially of those engaged on the Contemporary Civilisation Course at Columbia University. They range through Politics, Economics, Philosophy, Law, Religion and Science from the early Middle Ages down to the year 1939. They are inevitably of unequal merit, but are on the whole informative and competently written. There are naiveties, however, which leave one wondering, as for example (Vol.