

**THE MEDITERRANEAN IN POLITICS.** By Elizabeth Monroe. (Oxford University Press : Milford. 2nd Edition ; 10s.)

Moral science is not autonomous, and just as the understanding of personal morality requires some knowledge of physiology and psychology so judgment as to the claims and duties of nations among themselves must be well grounded on history and geography, the means of production, communication, markets, local customs and religion. Public opinion in the English speaking countries has a habit of deciding the rights and wrongs of an international situation with unequal information as to its background. The slapdash ethics and bungled policies that resulted in the years between the wars were neither virtuous nor successful. For if politics should be directed by morals, then no less certainly do morals need the discipline of politics. There is no social morality without political prudence ; there can be no political prudence without good counsel conducted in a severely non-moral spirit.

The Mediterranean is a case in point. Here there are problems which have been only shelved, or censored out of sight, for the time being. If, as seems likely, public opinion in Great Britain and the United States is going to have great power in shaping the future there, then all the greater is the need for preliminary instruction.

The reviewer knows of no better introduction than this book, first published just before the war, now appearing in its second edition. It has worn well. Unlike many other contemporary productions, it was not thrown together to meet a passing fashion. Though shorter and more popular in style, it has something of the same permanence as Lord Hailey's work on Africa.

Here are the main facts, set out drily—yet not without a sparkle of wit, objectively, and in good order, that must govern any settlement in the Mediterranean. Here, for instance, can be seen how deeply different are conditions in Morocco, Algeria and Tunisia : how Cyprus counters Rhodes, not only strategically, but also when the Atlantic Charter comes to be applied : the pros and cons of Italian colonizing in Libya. The account moves easily and is unburdened by the technicalities and apparatus that have gone to its making. It can be thoroughly recommended for its information, balance, and good sense.

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R.N.

**FOR HILAIRE BELLOC.** Essays in honour of his 72nd birthday. (Sheed and Ward ; 9s.)

Mr. Woodruff has gathered together an imposing band to pay honour to England's greatest modern essayist, and the contributions are all of the high standard we associate with their authors. In fact it is hardly fair to expect a reviewer to single out the best where everything is so good. The reader who is minded to do so