

must seem nostalgic now, but their value remains as a reminder of an integrity and grace which our own time sadly lacks. The Ditchling Press has provided a handsome record of Hilary Pepler's achievement as a printer—and as a person, too. He was associated in so many ways with the fortunes of *BLACKFRIARS* that it is a special pleasure to commend this book.

NOTICES

THE HOLY FOOT (André Deutsch, 9s. 6d.) is an altogether charming novel by Robert Romanis which tells of the finding of a strange relic in a south Italian village and of the extraordinary happenings that followed. It is set in the middle ages, but so direct is Mr Romanis' writing and so affectionate his understanding of Italian character (unchanging as one must suppose it to be) that one is never aware of 'period' or patronage. He writes from within the situation and with the complete conviction that comes from real sympathy—and wit.

MY LATIN-AMERICAN DIARY (Falcon Press, 7s. 6d.) is the brief record of a lecture tour made by André Maurois to Brazil, Argentina, Chile, Peru and Colombia. It is full of shrewd observations, though the statement that 'all the luxury products here [Buenos Aires] seem to be English' is certainly no longer true. M. Maurois is preoccupied with the problem of making French culture better known in Latin America and he has to regret some of the effects of the continent's new nationalism. Mr G. S. Fraser, in a most interesting foreword (which gives indeed a much better general picture than does M. Maurois' telegraphese), rightly points out that 'all generalizations about South America . . . are likely to contain more falsity than truth—except possibly the generalization that though it is a civilized continent, with its own extremely interesting culture, both that civilization and culture are still, much more than in Europe or the United States, in the process of taking shape'.

THE WEBSTER PLASS COLLECTION OF AFRICAN ART is now on loan to the British Museum, and an illustrated catalogue (published by the Trustees), prepared by Mr William Fagg, Assistant Keeper in the Department of Ethnography, is a handsome record of a very fine collection. Mr Fagg's introduction insists on the importance of relating African art to the philosophy it reflects and so of arriving at a positive conception of the differences between the European and the African traditions of art.

THE BASIS OF ST THOMAS'S MYSTICISM, by Conrad Pepler, O.P., is the latest of the London Aquinas Society's Lectures to be published (Blackfriars Publications, 2s.).