

*de sacristie*: it will certainly not be liked by those enemies of the Church who prefer to tackle a Christianity that is myopic and half-asleep.

J. F. T. PRINCE.

THE NEW AGE. By Edward Hulton. (Allen & Unwin; 7s. 6d.)

It is already here; and on the whole it is accurately described by Mr. Hulton. That is to say, he indicates where present tendencies are leading and—not surprisingly—suggests how they may be controlled for the general good of mankind. It is plain, straightforward and honest secularism, but there is an unusual respect for the past, even for the Middle Ages, and the author will not permit the totalitarian progressives to have it all their own way. He objects to uniformity, demands youth movements formed as a result of free association, insists that women shall be educated in a way that befits both their dignity and their nature. His denunciation of pre-war immorality (social and sexual) is fierce but just.

Inevitably, he is at his weakest when envisaging the religion and morals of the future. He is affected by the contemporary admiration for uncontrolled mysticism, and he considers that marriage only needs to last until the sixteenth birthday of the child. This chapter on the future of morals deserves to be read carefully by those who are now so glibly talking about the sufficiency of the Natural Law. This patently sincere thinker, making full use of his reason, appreciating the spiritual aspect of sexual love, does not regard either the unity or indissolubility of marriage as essential, nor does he see anything vile in the practice of contraception. But he is unquestionably right as to the facts. This is the outlook of the New Age, and we are still far from knowing how, with the wealth of Catholic truth, we are going to meet it.

EDWARD QUINN.

DEATH OF A GENTLEMAN. By Christopher Hollis. (Burns Oates; 8s. 6d.)

Old-world England is passing away. It is doing so gracefully, heroically, even consciously, in persons like Robert Fossett. 'Gentlemen are there to be shot at, when the shooting's on. That is what they are for, and, whatever the other duties in which the gentlemen of England have failed throughout their history, at least they have never failed in this.' As so many of them are being shot, and their history is reaching its appointed end, the philosophy expressed in this series of letters may be helpful to those who are responsible for shaping the coming age and who are not so blind in their worship of the common man as to overlook the virtues of the uncommon gentleman. Sooner or later, those virtues are bound to reassert themselves, and Robert Fossett's philosophy will be vindicated by the permanent facts of human nature.