

REVIEWS

HISTORY

ITALY IN THE MAKING, 1815 TO 1846. By G. F. H. Berkeley.
(Cambridge University Press; pp. xxx, 292; 15/-.)

An impression of a judgement at once calm and wise, a due and balanced sense of proportion and an attitude of mind, serious and inherently courteous, is produced in the reading of this most welcome volume. At the same time the charm and wide simplicity of the whole removes this eminently distinguished book from any sense of heaviness. How delightful is the contrast with that mass of pretentiously over-written history, the gay *Compiègne* of literature, which the Second Empire has called forth? And this is in keeping with the subject, for a profound seriousness underlay each facet of the movements which led to or retarded Italian unity. The character sketch of Charles Albert is particularly illuminating and attractive; the personality appears so clearly, the ideals, a certain vacillation of mind, the rigid limitations. It can, however, hardly be said that the study of Metternich produces the same sense of satisfaction, for here the author would seem to have yielded to the temptation to over-simplify a complex character. Still this point is of small importance, since Metternich's policy towards Italy was so consistent. Each question which concerns the Church is treated with the most generous consideration. In this direction Mr. Berkeley's book does a service to historical truth, which will prove all the greater since it comes from a clear and impartial non-Catholic writer. This first volume, and especially the scholarly evaluation of Gioberti, causes us to look forward eagerly to the completion of the story. Among the major desiderata of the time is a description, preferably from a non-Catholic pen, of the long pontificate which revealed at every stage the personality of Pio Nono, his fresh gaiety, his naïve attraction.

D.M.

RES PUBLICA, the international review of social and political studies, edited by F. L. Ferrari, Doctor of Social Sciences of the University of Louvain (Paris, 68 rue de Rennes, subscription 60 francs per annum), contains in its

REVIEWS

December-January number an illuminating article on 'Republican Spain' by Dr. Mendizabal-Villaba, Professor of Law at the University of Oviedo.

What gives the article unusual interest is the fact that the author is at once a prominent Spanish Catholic (he is, incidentally, a contributor to *La Vie Intellectuelle*) and a convinced Republican. As a Catholic and as a jurist he has devastating criticism for the acts of the present Government, the flagrant violation of the elementary rights of free citizens, but he believes that the monarchy signed its own death-warrant the day King Alfonso abandoned the position of constitutional king (to which he was bound by his coronation oath) for absolutism under the aegis of a dictatorship. So much so that the collapse of the Republic would lead not to a return of the monarchy but to anarchy. At the same time, the whole nation has yet to learn to think in terms of liberty. 'I am no Liberal!' declared Azaña to a reproach that a certain measure was anti-Liberal. At the present time the parties of the Left predominate, ruled by the demagogic catch-words of anti-capitalism and anti-clericalism, while the influence of the conservative currents have been weakened by monarchist intransigence. And while the author considers that Spanish Catholics as a whole were too slow in realising that in itself a separation of Church and State would benefit the Church far more than its old 'regalian' subjection to the Crown, he emphasises the fact that the Church has done all that was possible to come to an agreement with the new Government. What is needed is the political organisation of the middle-classes with an intellectual élite into a party 'not of the Right but of Right, in defence of liberty and law.' Dr. Mendizabal believes that this will come; deprecating the rebellion of August he points out that the value of a democratic constitution lies precisely in the possibility of an inversion of policy without armed force. It lies with the people of Spain to make the public power not the monopoly of a sectarian group, but the expression of the will of the whole nation.

Other noteworthy articles in the same number are 'Le Président du Reich,' by René Capitant, Professor of Law in the University of Strasbourg; 'L'Italie et la Yougo-

BLACKFRIARS

Slavie' by Count Sforza, ex-Foreign Minister of Italy; and 'Le Problème de l'Europe Centro-Orientale' by Don Sturzo.

B.B.C.

CINEMA

The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass.

It was due to the kindness of Mr. J. Russell Orr, of the new Central Information Bureau for Educational Films, Kingsway House, Kingsway, W.C.2, that we were favoured with a private view of this fine film. Produced under the auspices of the Bishop of Rochester, U.S.A., it depicts in unabridged detail the action of Low Mass, interspersed with short sequences from the Life and Passion of Our Lord. It is straightforward photography, and no attempt has been made to enhance dramatic effect by cutting, but the work is a singularly beautiful example of motion-picture art. The photography is excellent, and the clever camera-angles are no less admirable for their aesthetic than for the pedagogic qualities. The shot of the fraction of the Host is particularly memorable. The film aims chiefly at demonstrating and explaining the rubrics of the priest, with the result that he is apt to appear as a solitary performer rather than as the representative of a congregation acting in union with him. This would be a serious defect in a film which claims to convey the meaning of the Mass in its entirety; but the fault lies here in the title rather than in the film itself. It is an achievement which opens up wide vistas of the possibilities of the cinema as a powerful medium for religious instruction and, in particular, for the liturgical apostolate. Copies are available for hire on two reels of sub-standard (16 mm.) non-inflammable stock. All enquiries should be addressed to Mr. Russell Orr.

V.W.

MUSIC.

February has long been recognised as the 'peak' month of music-making. The orchestral concerts, chamber music, instrumental and vocal recitals from which the public can choose this year are many and varied. On February 4th Herr Huberman