

YEARS OF WRATH. By David Low. (Gollancz; 25s.)

Nearly three hundred cartoons of a deadly serious artist commenting contemporaneously on world events from 1932 to 1945 make a rather tedious book. Men expect from the black and white sketches of a political artist some sense of the incongruous, some fun to relieve the tedium of politics and wars. But Mr Low offers no relief, and though his comments have some historic value it seems amazing that when these drawings appeared evening by evening they were welcomed by the people already oppressed by crisis, political crime and war. C.P.

ENGLAND YESTERDAY AND TODAY. Edited by F. Alan Walbank. (Batsford; 15s.0d.)

This volume illustrates various aspects of English social life during the last and the present century. Its material has been drawn from the work of famous novelists, ranging from Dickens to Waugh, and it is illustrated partly by photographs (which should be supplemented by Peter Quennell's *Victorian Panorama*) and partly from the invaluable pages of *Punch*. The selections, with their introductions by Mr Walbank, are excellently done, and the book is a really useful one giving an excellent sense of the whole period. In a task like this, fiction is nearer to truth than history. A supplementary volume is now needed. The modern novelist fulfils most of the functions of the preacher of the Middle Ages, he is the great diffuser of ideas. The basic ideas of a Wells or a Chesterton tend to become the intellectual climate of a generation. A volume elucidating the beliefs of the great modern novelists would be of even greater value than the excellent publication now under review. P.F.

TROIS LIVRES A AUTOLYCUS. Par Théophile d'Antioche. Greek text (ed. Bardy) and trans. (J. Sender). (Editions du Cerf: Blackfriars; 12s.6d.)

The *Three Books to Autolytus* are all that survive of the works of Theophilus, sixth Bishop of Antioch, and last of the second-century Apologists. The chief doctrinal interest of the work is its relatively full treatment of the Trinity, a word that appears here for the first time. Père Bardy fully rebuts the accusation that Theophilus was an innovator who developed his Trinitarian doctrine only by borrowing from Greek philosophy, and shows that he is a trustworthy witness to the contemporary belief of his church. For the rest, his work is less a defence of Christianity than an exposition of the Preambles of Faith, contrasting the gross mythology of the pagans with the austere beauty of the Christian idea of God, in whom, he insists, men cannot believe unless they first prepare themselves by way of renunciation and detachment. It is his eagerness to pierce the complacency of his pagan contemporaries, a complacency that was to be shattered only by the collapse of the

Empire two centuries later, that makes him very pertinent to our own times. Autolyceus is not the credulous pagan of the first century who believed Christians ate babies. He is tolerant and well informed; he has read the Scriptures, and thinks them rather funny. Most men today know as much of Christianity as he did, and find it no more to their liking. Theophilus may not have been a deep or original thinker, but one cannot read him without gaining a fresh insight into the difficulties the modern apologist must face. Introduction, notes and translation are of the high standard we have come to expect from this series.

THE CAPTURE OF DAMIETTA. By Oliver of Paderborn. Translated by John J. Gavigan. (Pennsylvania University Press, London: Geoffrey Cumberlege; 7s. 6d.)

A translation of Oliver of Paderborn's account of the Fifth Crusade is a useful addition to the body of mediaeval historical texts available in English. Oliver wrote as an eye-witness, and his often vivid descriptions of what he saw at Damietta, and of what he thought about it all, are of value in any attempt to estimate the crusading movement. The translation reads easily and appears sufficiently close to the text. The editorial matter is, as so often in books from America, a curious mixture of elementary and erudite.

A.R.

THE POETICAL WORKS OF SHELLEY. Selected with an Introduction by Morchard Bishop. (Macdonald; 8s. 6d.)

THE PATTERN OF A DARK. By John Sundowne. (Phoenix Press; 6s.)

To handle these volumes with their prices in mind will take the purchaser back to pre-war days. Shelley appears in thick Cellophane jacket (very practical though the coloured type printed thereon is rather startling) and illustrated throughout its 520 well-printed pages. Mr Sundowne's outline of the dark pattern of his mind is clothed in handmade paper and beautifully printed. The purchaser will already have been a reader of Shelley, maybe, but he will soon become a reader of Sundowne too, if he buys both these books, and he will be richly rewarded by both.

J.H.

THE NEWSPAPER. A Study of the Daily Newspaper and its Laws. By I. Rothenberg, D.Phil. (Staples; 35s.)

Once the reader of this volume has set aside its outworn setting of 'reactionary' and 'progressive' politics, he will profit enormously by the study of the mass of information supplied by the author. Dr Rothenberg claims to have provided the first survey of the press laws of the world, and he has certainly gathered here all the principal legislation regarding the press enforced in the last century or two. But the author does more than merely list the laws of countries and even individual American states—all these are incorporated in an interesting discussion of the laws or the absence