

though most of them would have told you otherwise. The situation was that they were on their way out of Orthodox institutional religion because the priests favoured the powerful rather than the poor, and like many others they looked to philosophy, German in particular, for a surrogate of the peace that surpasseth all understanding.

This absorbing book makes these sincere, unhappy and often misguided men appealing and understandable and throws perhaps some light on the ideology current behind the Iron Curtain. Blinsky said it well when he protested that he would not want happiness, even as a gift, without the peace of mind that universal justice would bring. Blessed are they that hunger. . . .

S. GRUNBERG

THE CATHEDRALS OF SPAIN. By John Harvey. (Batsford; 35s.)

It would be easy to write a long and very critical review of this book. The historical introduction bristles with generalizations at which most historians would quiver. Many would wish to query the underlying assumption implied in the words 'Spain' and 'Spanish' and 'Spaniard'. The existence of a Spanish unit in the twentieth century is at any rate defensible. But the origins of both architecture and art in the Peninsula are only intelligible when studied in three distinct and contrasted zones. The kingdom of Castille and León with north and central Portugal was essentially a part of the Atlantic unit. In so many ways it was an extension of Aquitaine and partly in consequence had so many links with England. The other influences that came to it were from inner Europe; from Burgundy and the Rhineland. Aragon and Catalonia were part of a Mediterranean unit and had cultural contacts that stretched past the Italian free cities to Byzantium. The Moorish south was part of a single zone, finally welded together by the Almohades which stretched far into Africa beyond Marrakesh.

But even though one may doubt many of Mr Harvey's generalizations on Spanish characteristics, even though one may regret that he listed the meditations of Marcus Aurelius among Spanish achievements or stated that the Romans never completely conquered Spain, even if as an archaeologist one is sceptical as to the use of the horse-shoe arch among the Visigoths, still in his *Cathedrals of Spain* he has achieved a masterpiece.

It is the only book in English that can be compared with the great work of G. E. Street. In 263 pages Mr Harvey describes every cathedral in Spain in lucid accurate detail and records every known fact as to their architects. His illustrations consist of 149 photographs and drawings, and though the drawings tend to be too small in scale the photographs are of the highest standard. Anyone who cares either for Spain or for architecture has good reason to be grateful.

GERVASE MATHEW, O.P.