

REVIEWS.

A DYNAMIC WORLD ORDER. By Rt. Rev. Mgr. Donald A. McLean. (Bruce Publishing Co.; \$2.50).

There is a tendency among planners to ignore completely the Social Teaching of the Catholic Church, because, they allege, it would "drag us back to the Dark Ages". Mgr. McLean, in this, his latest book, succeeds in exploding that popular conception, and makes an earnest and well reasoned appeal for the application of Christian Principles to the complex problems of modern society. There is no support here for current "realism" in international relationships; this attitude is shown to be, in effect, nothing more than an ostrich-like policy of unseeing indulgence towards the indiscretions and aggressions of any "Big Power" holding membership of the United Nations Organisation. Such policies hold small hope of lasting peace; contrasted with an International Organisation based on the Natural Law of Man's rights, both individual and National, they are exposed as shabby compromise.

Above all, this book should illustrate beyond all doubt that the Social Teachings of the Popes are essentially practical; no problems are evaded here; clearly and concisely we are shown that most of our political and economic problems arise from lack of universal morality. To read "A Dynamic World Order" is to study the basis of a just and lasting peace.

MAURICE McLOUGHLIN.

COUNTIES OF CONTENTION. By Benedict Kiely. (Mercier Press; 7s. 6d.).

It is an old device in controversy to be unmoved by anything the other side can say. Even to pretend to be unmoved is a great asset in business. It works out to making the will stronger than the intelligence and this is material dialectic, it leads to class-struggle and internecine war and the end of a period. What else would you?

The author tackles the forlorn hope of peace in Northern Ireland. Brave and patient enough he tries to tell the story of the opposing elements. Perhaps he gives way unduly to temptations of eloquence when his point is driven home, for he can write eloquently or elegantly as occasion offers. Documentary evidence is carefully marshalled, but somewhat overlaid with good writing. One side of the controversy relies on superior force and the inertia of tired opinion, whilst the other is putting on the armour of righteous indignation, strong in the justice of its quarrel. The effect on the sympathetic reader is one of strangulation. Pamphlets have already stated the case, but it is a step in advance to have it in book form. Lord, what fools these mortals be! is an unbidden semi-conscious reflection too. But the matter goes deeper than the mind of Lord Craigavon (such mind as he had) and wider than the purpose of Lord Carson of Duncairn. The Orange movement was too successful at the outset, and its pretext too violent to be set aside as a weapon by the governing class. The Irish are more willing than ready for a fight and that is their history. Sir Edward Carson