

Whenever a man has fairly set down the best that he knows about the things he knows best, and in words that tell his meaning, there always will be literature' (*G. S. Gordon*).

These discursive reminiscences and reflections cover fifty years of mountaineering and skiing in many countries of Europe and of North and South America, but chiefly in Switzerland. They certainly represent the best about what Arnold Lunn knows best. In this book the old Lunn thrust and vigour attain an amplitude and calmness of spirit that deserve the adjective 'Bellocian'—though I would not be understood to imply that Lunn is an imitator of that great master. Rather, the faith which these two minds share at times ennobles the writings of each not dissimilarly.

Mountain Jubilee, the product of a civilised, European and Christian mind, is a book that should give pleasure to many for a long time to come.

It is a well produced volume, adorned by seventeen fine photographs of mountain scenery. Even in peace-time it would not be dear at 15s.

MICHAEL SEWELL.

L'HISTOIRE JUGERA. By Léon Blum. (L'Arbre; \$2.00.)

These extracts from M. Blum's speeches and political journalism, compiled by a friend since his imprisonment, have a certain interest as being contemporary reactions to the events of a highly critical period in the history of Europe. They contain insufficient material—and indeed of their nature could hardly afford the right kind of evidence—to present a case upon which, as their compiler suggests, posterity will be able to form a judgment. M. Blum is consistent, but there are too many gaps in his speeches and writings to enable one to form a clear idea of his effect upon French—and European—politics. One noticeable gap occurs with regard to the Spanish War. The compiler of *L'Histoire Jugera* explains it as being the result of 'une réserve diplomatique'; but diplomacy or no, the fact remains that the Front Populaire's actions in relation to Spain constitute an important part of the evidence that history will have to sift in forming its judgment on M. Blum and his associates.

The extracts from the proceedings at the Riom trial, while testifying to M. Blum's courage in a situation of peril to himself, are rendered less illuminating than they might have been owing to the limitations and indecision of the Court.

R. D. JEBB.

LEADERSHIP FOR WOMEN. By John G. Vance; (The Grail, 1/-).

Any publication from the Grail commands attention from those interested in work for 'Youth,' and this little volume fully justifies our expectations. It is no easy task to present this kind of prac-

tical moral advice in a form which is at once acceptable and useful, and both author and sponsors in the case must be congratulated on their achievement.

The essays embodied in the present volume were originally delivered as a series of 'talks to women who were training to be leaders' and they retain a directness and simplicity of expression which suggests the extempore spoken address. This is undoubtedly a great asset to a work of this kind, which might so easily have become priggish and stilted. Although the form in which the advice is given is simple and at times humorous, the content is often, in its way, profound; the section on Honour, for example, is a masterly little exposition of a most delicate and intricate subject, and the analyses of character are examples of the real psychological knowledge which is to be expected from Dr. Vance.

The illustrations by Patrick O'Keeffe, although distinctly clever in themselves, appear at first sight to detract somewhat from the serious value of the book and the same is true of the flamboyant cover, but this is perhaps a question of personal taste, and it may be that to the public for which it is primarily intended, these gildings of the pill are necessary.

There can be no doubt as to the usefulness of these talks, and although an entirely Catholic production, there is nothing in the book to provoke the most scrupulous non-sectarian mind; it is admirably adapted for the widest general circulation.

ROSALIND MURRAY.

25 YEARS OF UNCONTROL. By E. Schmiedeler, O.S.B., Ph.D. (Our Sunday Visitor Press, Indiana, U.S.A., n.p.)

In 1939 the organized Birth Control movement in America celebrated its 'Silver Jubilee.' This book is a survey of the history of the first 25 years of organized 'uncontrol,' as the author prefers to call it, and of its effects on the moral and national life of the United States. It is an amazing story, and one which we imagine could easily be paralleled in any country where the modern cult of birth control has been practised. Quotations and extracts from official population statistics, from the newspaper files and from the books and speeches of the birth-controllers themselves provide the evidence. The whole is a record which warrants the author's description of it a '25 years of organized tearing down of the moral fibre of a great nation.'

We do not find much deep discussion of the ethical question of artificial birth control in itself, though there is a chapter which deals with the familiar retorts of the birth-controllers to the 'nature argument.' The chief value of the book will be to reinforce the growing realization in America and in this country, that continued and deliberate refusal to abide by the conditions upon which God allows the continued existence of the human race has led and is leading to the