

BLACKFRIARS

THE SECRET STORY OF THE OXFORD MOVEMENT. By the Rev. Desmond Morse-Boycott. (Skeffington & Son, Ltd.; 12/6 net.)

' You may break, you may shatter the vase, if you will,
But the scent of the roses will cling round it still.'

That is how many feel about the Oxford Movement. But Mr. Morse-Boycott will not have it so. He surveys the shifting parti-coloured scene undiscouraged and impavid, waits serene till clouds roll by, and forecasts the bounds of Anglo-Catholicism wider still and wider. Well, well : he has written a beautiful book, and we have enjoyed the brimming draught, bright to the last drop. Of course, the book is full of challenge; the tail of the coat is trailed on every page with insinuating insouciance. There are minor inaccuracies passim, e.g., 'Arthur' Maconochie and 'John' Leicester Lyne; the year of Robert Wilberforce's conversion was 1854, not 1851; and Charles Marriott's excellent father was not the author of the hymn, *God, that madest earth and heaven*. Mr. Morse-Boycott does not aim at the nebulous charms of Dean Church's overpraised *Twelve Years*, but tells his story with animation and gusto, digresses to give us a bright little anecdote, then paints us a picture with restrained but 'cunning hand laid on.' In fine, we might say, 'there are a hundred faults in this thing,' some of its obiter dicta may surprise or pain, but here, beyond gain-saying, we have a book not merely of ephemeral pleasing, but of solid merit and abiding value. In our day to write about the Oxford Movement seems the first infirmity of noble minds. This book stands apart from the juvenilia, the biblia a-biblia, the 'also ran.' For amongst the very few 'books that matter' on the Oxford Movement this of Mr. Morse-Boycott is 'worthy to be filed.'

E.J.

RECOVERY. By Sir Arthur Salter. (1933 edition; Bell; 5/-.)

This is a first-class review of the present world situation, economic and political. It is written from the capitalist standpoint; that is to say the present economic system must be patched up. The author believes that this can be done, and proceeds to examine ways and means of so doing. There is really only one method, and that is by a larger measure of international co-operation. Sir Arthur Salter is a keen supporter of the League of Nations, and believes that it has a great future before it, provided that it is well supported in its hour of need. If the author's policy is to be summed up in one sentence, it can be best done in his own words : 'The stimulus

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of competitive enterprise and personal gain, supplementing the traditions of public service, can thus be harnessed to the chariot of the public good.'

F.A.K.B.

WAR AND WESTERN CIVILISATION. By Major-General J. F. C. Fuller, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O. (Duckworth; 10/-.)

The name of the author is now a household one, and the fact that his profession is that of a soldier need not deter the most ardent of pacifists from the perusal of its pages. Written with a breadth of conception, vivid imagination and great clarity, the story it unfolds should on the contrary appeal to all thinking individuals whatever their profession and no matter what inclinations or ideals they subscribe to; neither should its title cause those sickened with war experiences or weary of war literature to pass it by.

The great cry of the world at present is for peace, yet peace is but the twin brother of war, and should the latter ever be circumvented, both words simultaneously disappear from our dictionaries. Is it possible, however, for war to be abolished permanently? The reader of General Fuller's book no doubt will come to his own conclusions; in fact it is one of the objects of the author in writing his book, as he tells us, to 'reflect on the experiences of the last hundred years in order that we may fashion a little candle, which will light our way through the next hundred.'

The author, writing in his inimitable style, carries us through the century dating from the Napoleonic wars to the outbreak of the European conflict in 1914, treating his subject from an historical basis. His fertile brain has striven with success to compress the economic, political and military progress of that century into the small compass of some 270 pages. The deductions he makes are all of very considerable interest. From the foundations of Nationalism, which he attributes to 'Napoleon the Liberator,' he conducts us historically through what he terms the periods of National incubation, consolidation and expansion to the final tragedy of National consummation during the years 1914-1918.

On this tragedy he contends that the foundations of Internationalism have been laid. The reader will be disappointed if he imagines that General Fuller, having reached this point, offers any real hope of the abolition of war as an instrument of policy or as an outlet for the expression of man's pride and passions. On the contrary he has courage to admit that his book ends, as it begins, in chaos. He is insistent to explain, however, that it is not the end he desired, but that for lack of wisdom in man,