

REVIEWS

ROME AND THE COUNTER-REFORMATION IN ENGLAND. By Philip Hughes. (Burns Oates; 18s.)

This is a valuable work, and we regret that exigences of space allow us to do little more than most warmly commend it to the student of English Catholic history.

The writer deals with a period of which he is known to be a master, the reigns of Mary, Elizabeth and the two first Stuarts. He aims not at a general history of the epoch, but at a study of the measures then taken to counter the progress of the Reformation in England. In the course of more than four hundred tightly-packed pages he tells us a good deal that has been hitherto unknown, and much, too, that has been known to a few but has been kept back by older writers for prudential reasons and fear of scandal. He has tapped fresh sources, and has dared to tell the (sometimes unpleasant) truth in a way forbidden to Dodd and Tierney and Lingard. It is a sad story in the main, a story of tragic failure. There is much muck-raking and washing of dirty linen. But at the same time a glimpse of real heroism and wonderful triumphs of grace. And throughout we find in it the explanation of those strong prejudices which still at this day hinder the progress of the Catholic Church in our land. And from it we better understand why the 'Conversion of England' remains so largely a dream, and why for all our piping the English people refuse to dance.

It is a vast subject, and the writer skilfully groups his matter around three men who were the principal figures on the Catholic side—Cardinal Pole, Cardinal Allen and Dr. Smith, Bishop of Chalcedon. The last-named, the least known of the trio, has not been very fairly treated in Baron von Pastor's volumes: his life here receives its ample vindication.

The style of Fr. Hughes' work is vivid, sometimes exciting, always interesting, and not without purple patches. We have only two minute criticisms to make: Why is Cardinal Pole's legate-ship so oddly but persistently described as 'Pole's *legacy*'? And is it not rather harsh to say that Tunstall of Durham 'apostatized'? At the most, that prelate's offence was but what the lawyers might call 'constructive' schism.

ROBERT BRACEY, O.P.

ELIZABETHAN COMMENTARY. By Hilaire Belloc. (Cassell; 7s. 6d.)

Once more Mr. Belloc gives us his views on the character and conduct of Queen Elizabeth and on the Protestant Reformation in Great Britain. They are given with all the accustomed vehemence, posi-