

We are an unreflective people who do not care to recognise or remember national sins. Most of this prophet's burden is apposite, even more apposite than when it was written. Therefore it is a pity that M. Bernanos has chosen a literary form which is bound to seem artificial, and writes in a style which will only attract an intellectual minority. He is too rhetorical and his anger inclines to be shrill (though one is loth, writing from a country which has suffered so much less than France to make this sort of comment). If in some parts of the book political feeling overshadows Christian values, the author errs in company with other brave and tender-hearted champions of the Lord's poor.

COLIN SUMMERFORD.

LE VOYAGE DU CENTURION. By Ernest Psichari. Preface by Paul Bourget. (Editions Louis Conard; 69 francs.)

No one who read this book in the days of its first appearance can have forgotten it, but our knowledge of the writer has been enriched since 1915. We have seen Psichari through the eyes of his friends; we even know now that it was Jacques Maritain and his wife who sent the postcard with the picture of Our Lady of Salette to Ernest Psichari in the desert and this detail, with much else, has helped us to focus Maxence as the grandson of Renan.

In all ways the book has gained by the years which have passed. Written from a unity of purpose, it achieves great beauty of style and atmosphere, but it is the clear intensity of its faith which stands out so vividly against the darkness of our contemporary sky. The issue between Maxence and God, clean cut as the edge of a razor, gives it a quality rare in these times of muzzy philosophies.

It is valuable, too, in that it reveals a type of spirituality essentially French, more necessary than ever to be understood by the Catholics of other nations. And this, though its individuality is single to the point of genius.

For those who have little knowledge of the spirit of Catholic France there could be no better introduction. Paul Bourget's fine preface will help them to an understanding of that for which they must look. The physical atmosphere is conveyed with such actuality that they will hear the sounds of the camp and smell the tang of the desert air: and they will find the soul of France.

D. M.

THEATRE—Cahier I: Essais par Paul Claudel, Charles Vildrac, etc.; 75 francs. Cahier II: Le Théâtre Anglais d'hier et d'aujourd'hui; 75 francs. Cahier III: Aspects du Théâtre Contemporaine en France; 90 francs. (Paris: Editions du Pavois.)

HISTOIRE DU THEATRE. Par Robert Pignarre. (Presses Universitaires de France.)

One of the happiest results of the end of a war is that the arts of civilisation can be free again. Total mobilisation includes the actor,