

as a handy guide and history, but for greater detail one will still turn to Lord Beveridge's *Voluntary Action* and *The Evidence for Voluntary Action*.

JOHN FITZSIMONS

CHRISTIANITY AND FREEDOM: A SYMPOSIUM. By a Team of Experts including Gustave Thibon and Daniel-Rops. (Hollis & Carter; 6s.)

This is an altogether stimulating book. Its theme is freedom 'studied from a very definite angle: that of the historical and sociological relationship which in our opinion exists between the Church of Christ, Catholic and Roman, and the state of freedom in various societies'. The 'our opinion' is that of a real team; for we have here ten papers read to the 'Centre Catholique des Intellectuels Français'.

The perspective is set in Gustave Thibon's introductory chapter on the decline of freedom at the present time. He sees the problem thus: 'To be free is to have the power to develop one's nature, not in accordance with one's arbitrary will but in obedience to the eternal laws of that nature'. That is the classic Catholic formulation. It would be invidious to single out particular parts of the book, since each contributor is a proved and revered master in his own field. But the English Catholic reader will find most enlightening of all Père Congar's chapter on the Eastern Orthodox conception, with its gentle explanation of why the Latin West is thought to be so legalist and 'externalized' by the Orthodox no less than by Western Protestants; and Robert Flacelière's delightful survey of the Hellenic inheritance—so much in tune with Sir Richard Livingstone's now famous insistence that Christianity did not 'complete' the Greek philosophical view of God but corrected it radically; and the two chapters on Islam and the Mohammedan State (by Nadjm Oud-Dine Bammate and Louis Gardet), which in some ways approximate more to the Western outlook than does the philosophy of Hinduism—though Fr D'Souza, S.J., brings out forcefully the contemplative strength that Indian Catholicism can bring to bear. This last point links up with what André Railliet and Daniel-Rops have to say on the interior and spiritual conditions necessary if any revived notion of freedom in the contemporary world is to endure.

This book ought certainly to be at the disposal of the top forms in Catholic grammar schools, as a discussion-book for all those practical problems where the social Encyclicals touch ground.

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THE ARABS. By Edward Atiyah. (Pelican; 2s. 6d.)

With rose-coloured spectacles one sees everything 'en rose'. So, when one is a 'son of Arabs' (*vide* page 209 of this book), and has also been creator and organizer of the Arab Office, one sees everything and