

of the Supplication of the fifteenth-century Moscow school. Both introductions are by scholars of great distinction. Alexei Hackel writes of the place of the icon in Orthodox spirituality in prose of real beauty, while Johannes Kollwitz has provided the best essay on Christian mosaics that has yet appeared in English.

GERVASE MATHEW, O.P.

BYZANTINE STUDIES AND OTHER ESSAYS. By Norman H. Baynes, University of London. (The Athlone Press; 35s.)

In so many ways Professor Baynes has been the Acton of our time in the character of his erudition, his influence and his indomitable liberalism. But, as with Acton, no future generation could understand the depth and width of his erudition and his influence from his published works alone. Since he first taught in London thirty-seven years ago no one has done more both for the prestige and for the standards of London University, and it is a fitting act of *pietas* that the Athlone Press should now publish in a single volume fourteen of his articles, nine of his reviews and seven of his lectures.

Naturally the contents of such a volume cannot be of equal value; some of the reviews are necessarily ephemeral and one of the strongest of Professor Baynes's admirers would wish that two of his lectures had been omitted. No one has shown more sympathetic understanding for Byzantine hagiography, but it is doubtful if he has ever felt at home among the theological subtleties of Greek patristic thought, and this is very apparent in his lecture on 'Alexandria and Constantinople', as in several other passages in this volume. Again, he has never been an archaeologist and this perhaps explains why in the first half of his lecture on 'Idolatry and the Early Church' he seems to ignore so much of the archaeological evidence of the use of representational art both in early Christianity and in late Judaism.

Yet any criticism of this volume seems ungenerous and ungrateful when one re-reads four of the lectures it contains—'The Hellenistic Civilization and East Rome', 'The Thought World of East Rome', 'Some Aspects of Byzantine Civilization', 'The Byzantine State'. Each of them is so clearly the work of a master and any one of them could explain the pre-eminence which Professor Baynes has so long held both in Byzantine studies and in those of all the Imperial Hellenistic age.

GERVASE MATHEW, O.P.

THE WISE MAN FROM THE WEST. By Vincent Cronin. (Rupert Hart-Davis; 18s.)

In his first book, *The Golden Honeycomb*, Mr Cronin described his own seeking, among the material remains of Sicily, for traces of the