

move along their way, and she has added copious learned notes on all the manifold topics touched upon by the versatile and observant authors. To her indeed is our gratitude chiefly due for this enchanting volume which Mozart-lovers will read, like Vincent in Salzburg, in Miss Hughes' words, 'in a state of bemused beatitude'.

CUTHBERT GIRDLESTONE

**BLACK PEARL.** By A. and E. Sheehan. (The Harvill Press; 16s.)

This sounds like a novel but it is, in fact, a biography, for Black Pearl was a real person, 'the hairdresser from Haiti'. And there he is on the blue dust-jacket, a negro in a very high collar about to dress the hair of a ghostly-looking lady reminiscent of Madame de Pompadour. The autobiography, the indiscreet memoirs, of a fashionable *coiffeur de dames* might not be unusual. A biography of an ordinary hairdresser is and suggests the subject was an unusual person. This is true of Pierre Toussaint, born a slave in Saint Domingue (now Haiti) nearly thirty years before the French Revolution. The repercussions of the latter led to Pierre's being taken to New York by his owners who had him trained as a hairdresser. He was an exemplary Catholic, a man of great charity and nobility of character. He became a legend in his lifetime and, even now, more than a hundred years after his death, is the inspiring subject of an edifying biography.

KIERAN MULVEY, O.P.

**MODERN FRANCE.** By F. C. Roe (Longmans, 21s.). Professor Roe provides, in three hundred pages, an informed and well-written 'introduction to French civilization', making even such mysteries as French parliamentary practice intelligible to English readers. But it is astonishing that religion apparently plays no part in the France that Professor Roe describes, and, apart from a passing reference to the 'Schools question', the Church is not mentioned.

I.E.